

Hafa Adai!

Dad currently imprisoned in
Guam loses parental rights. » **PAGE 2**

Kilili invites NMI veterans to join
Veterans History Project. » **PAGE 3**

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75¢

Another CMS extension for CHC

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The public hospital on Saipan has been given another extension by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on the termination date of their provider agreement.

"We got extended," Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

In a copy of a letter shared by Muña,

CMS said the extension will be until the end of February of next year.

"We are hereby further extending the prospective date for termination of

See CMS on Page 4

POB effort begins; financial adviser selected

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth has settled on a federally required financial adviser to guide and package a \$30-million pension obligation bond that Gov. Eloy S. Inos aims to float through the Commonwealth De-

velopment Authority.

» **BLX Group is SEC-required financial advisor**

According to administration and CDA officials, the bond flotation aims to ease the impact the millions of dollars in annual payments to the Settlement Fund has on government revenues and public service programs.

For fiscal year 2015, some \$27

million was paid out of government appropriations to meet the minimum annual payments sufficient to allow the Fund to pay 75 percent of class members' full benefits. In fiscal year 2016, the government projects to pay out a total of \$30 million to meet this obligation.

These figures are a major chunk of projected revenues for alloca-

See POB on Page 4

100 DAYS AFTER SOUDELOR

Debris cleanup continues

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Work continues for many volunteer organizations that respond to the many needs of the community 100 days after Typhoon Soudeior hit Saipan.

Among them is the CNMI Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, the umbrella organization tasked to focus on the long-term recovery of the island, which is now training

See DEBRIS on Page 4

100 DAYS AFTER SOUDELOR

The heroes behind EOC

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For emergencies the number to call was 237-8000, and that was probably the most dialed number on Aug. 2, when Typhoon Soudeior struck Saipan.

The Emergency Operations Cen-

See HEROES on Page 4



CNMI CARE continues to assist villages with their debris cleanup on weekends, in partnership with different volunteers.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

INSIDE



ASIA

Aung San Suu Kyi's party appears headed for a massive election victory.

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WORLD

Egyptian media react to reports that a bomb caused a Russian plane to crash in Sinai.

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LIFE & STYLE

Caitlyn Jenner is presented with a Glamour woman of the year award.

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Local

World Renew volunteers to aid in construction estimates

Volunteers from the organization World Renew are on island to help in disaster recovery. Six volunteers from the group were introduced to the CNMI Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts or CARE at a meeting yesterday.

The volunteers are on island

through an interagency grant given to the American Red Cross by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist in the disaster case management.

"They have an amazing array of experience in construction estimation and construction su-

pervision," said Grayce Warren-Boulton of the Washington office of the American Red Cross.

Among the World Renew's mission is to respond to urgent needs that arise when disasters strike, which includes clearing debris, assessing needs, training local leaders, and repairing and

rebuilding damaged homes.

"They will get referrals from the case managers. They will go to homes and will produce construction estimates that the case managers will share with the Unmet Needs Table. That allows us to...determine exactly what kind of resources will be

needed," CARE director Jenny Hegland said.

Hegland added that cases for assessment could go to the Unmet Needs Table of CARE within the next two weeks.

According to ARC-NMI Chapter executive director

John Hirsh, the group will begin visiting about four to five families today.

The World Renew volunteers, who came from Michigan, will be on island until Nov. 22. (*Frauline S. Villanueva-Dizon*)

Curriculum for CUC training program to be finalized

By **FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON**
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REPORTER

A curriculum for a training program for current as well as future employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is in the works with the help of the

Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

NMTI Construction Trades director Rip Stephanson presented an initial version of the curriculum during a CUC board meeting on Monday.

The core curriculum, which includes introductory craft

skills, will require 113 contact hours. This would include basic safety, construction math, hand tools, power tools, construction drawings, basic rigging, as well as communication and employability skills.

Courses for a power plant welder and power generation

maintenance mechanic were also presented.

Scholarships, incentives, as well as possible job offers for those who complete the program were also discussed.

Aside from educating their current staff, the course could also help CUC prepare for the end of the foreign worker program in 2019.

"It is wise for us at CUC to work on that transition," vice chair Eric San Nicolas said.

The training will run for two to three years, which is about enough time for CUC to have potential employees to replace those it would lose if the CW program is not extended.

The board said it wants a final curriculum as well as a cost estimate at a meeting that they will hold later this month.

"They gave me some feedback and now that we've met, I have to fine-tune the program," Stephanson said.

Judge terminates parental rights of dad currently incarcerated in Guam

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo terminated yesterday the parental rights of a father who is currently incarcerated in Guam, saying it is clear that John Naputi has abandoned his three children on Saipan.

Govendo said the evidence shows that Naputi has abandoned the children by failing to provide support, exercising his visitation rights, or maintaining contact with them.

"While the fact shows that Naputi is incarcerated in Guam, which prevents him from fulfilling his parental obligations toward his children, he has neither shown any interest in establishing a relationship with his children nor has he ever attempted to assert his

legal rights," Govendo said.

The children's mother was given sole legal and physical custody of the children.

The judge granted the mother's request to change the children's names by taking out their last name "Naputi."

Govendo said new birth certificates will be issued to the children.

Naputi was directed to pay the mother \$30,940 in prior unpaid child support. However, with the termination of his parental rights, Naputi shall not be further obligated to provide additional and ongoing support for the children.

Govendo said the mother may take any action to collect on the \$30,940 judgment.

According to court records, the mother and the guardian ad

See **JUDGE** on Page 4



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Kilili invites NMI veterans to join Veterans History Project

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On this Veterans Day—and in the weeks and months ahead—veterans of the Northern Mariana Islands will be able to add the stories of their wartime service to the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP)

announced this week that the congressional office has launched an outreach initiative to promote the project. Sablan will be helping veterans and members of the community who want the Northern Marianas to be included.

“The Veterans History Project has collected stories from

about 100,000 veterans so far, but none from veterans currently residing in the Northern Marianas,” Sablan said. “We want to change that.”

Congress began the Veterans History Project in 2000 to honor America’s war veterans by collecting and preserving their remembrances of service

to the country. The project relies on volunteers nationwide to interview veterans and send their stories to the Library of Congress.

“The congressional office has already begun reaching out to veterans in the Northern Marianas and community groups to let them know about the project and show them how to join,” Sablan said. “Students, researchers, Scout troops, civic groups, family members of veterans, neighbors, and friends—anyone can participate.”

The first step to participating in the Veterans History Project is to learn more about it. The project website, www.loc.gov/vets, provides a field kit and other resources for conducting interviews, hosting com-

munity events, and submitting stories. Hard copies of these materials, and additional information and assistance are also available at the congressional offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

“The wartime service of Northern Marianas veterans is an important part of the history of our Commonwealth and our country,” Sablan said. “We can honor that service by chronicling our veterans’ experiences, learning from them, and preserving their stories for future generations.”

Recorded audio or video interviews, written memoirs, photographs, manuscripts, letters, diaries, and original works of art may all be made part of the collection. About 15,000 veterans’ stories have

now been digitized and are available online.

The stories span World War I and World War II, to the wars in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf, and the post-9/11 conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Though there are no archived stories from veterans in the Northern Marianas yet, the project has collected powerful first-hand accounts of service members who fought in the Battles of Saipan and Tinian during World War II.

For more information about how to get involved, or for assistance, contact the congressional office at kilili@mail.house.gov or call (670) 323-2647 (Northern Marianas); (202) 225-2646 (Washington, DC); or toll-free at (877) 446-3465. (*Office of the Delegate*)

Probable cause found to charge man in burglary

The Superior Court found probable cause yesterday to file charges against Cling Philip Kaipat in connection with the burglary at the home of Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo in Dandan.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to charge the 19-year-old Kaipat with burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.

Camacho ordered Kaipat, also known as Gilbert, to answer the charges.

Arraignment will be on Nov. 16, 2015 at 9am before Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for Kaipat.

Kaipat has been in custody since his arrest last Thursday, a few hours after he allegedly burglarized the house of Govendo and stole the judge’s government-issued 9mm pistol and several ammunitions. A \$50,000 cash bail was imposed.

Police said a surveillance camera at a nearby store led to the identification and arrest

of Kaipat, who then guided investigators to a trash bin at a bakery where he hid the stolen gun.

Govendo was off-island when the incident happened. His wife discovered the burglary when she returned home from running errands Thursday at 1pm. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Company fined for not cooperating with DOL

A company was fined \$500 for failing to cooperate with a CNMI Department of Labor investigation.

OCM Saipan Corp, which does business as Blue Haus and BH Janitorial Services, was penalized in an administrative order signed by DOL’s Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody.

DOL’s Enforcement Section had requested that the corporation be sanctioned for failing to produce documents in response to an investigation conducted under Chapter 2 of the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007.

Among the requested docu-

ments were total listing of employees, business license, annual corporate report, quarterly employer’s withholding tax, and a letter of compliance from the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

In cases of violations under that chapter, the hearing officer is authorized to levy a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

The fine will be suspended for one year and then extinguished if the company complies with the term of the order and commits no further violations of DOL’s statutes and regulations. (*Frauleine S. Villanueva-Dizon*)

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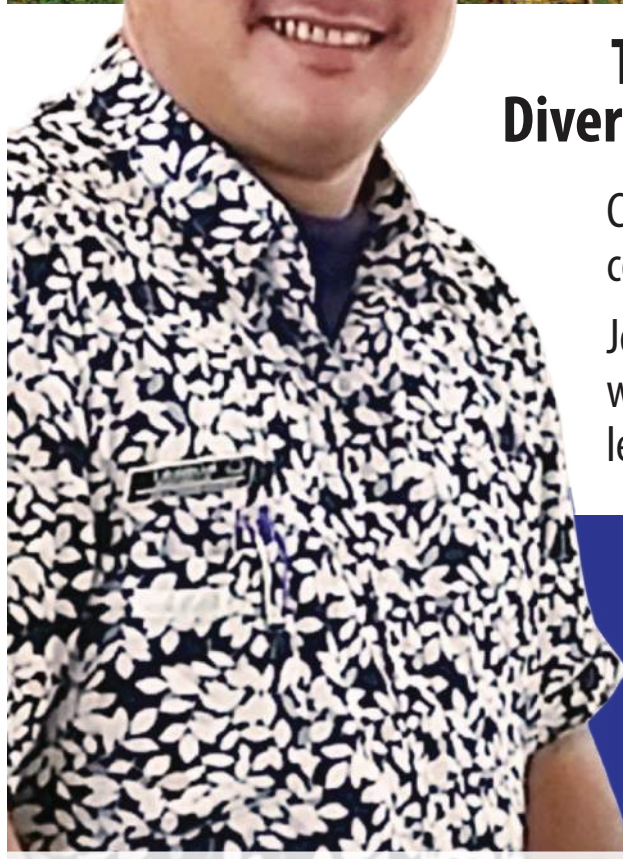


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POB

From Page 1

tion for those two fiscal years, at \$134.33 million and \$145.8 million, respectively.

BLX Group—the group that offered the lowest price and had background knowledge of the CNMI as the adviser on CDA's financial disclosure statements for existing bonds—has been selected as the financial adviser, CDA executive director Manuel Sablan disclosed yesterday. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission requires any bond issuer to retain a financial adviser. BLX group signed a contract about two weeks ago.

With the financial adviser now on board, CDA is able “to formally move to float a bond,” Sablan said.

The administration and CDA have been in talks since April on how to move forward with the bond.

“The administration has tasked CDA to begin exploring the possibility of us floating at

least a \$30- to \$31-million pension obligation bond,” Sablan said in an earlier interview. “We need a number of key players: an underwriter, bond counsel, bond trustee and most importantly” a financial adviser pursuant to federal requirements that any bond issuer would have to retain a financial adviser.

CDA and the administration will now need to complete a “preliminary official statement,”—described by officials as a comprehensive document that would spell out the purpose, the condition, and the security of the bond. The document will help the CDA package the bond and put it out to market, and will give prospective buyers a comprehensive picture of the financial viability of the issuer—in this case, the CNMI—in meeting the bond payments and other requirements.

During a Cabinet meeting Monday, press secretary Ivan Blanco said that acting governor Ralph DLG Torres asked department heads and agencies to give whatever as-

sistance they could to CDA if asked. CDA would need information from the departments of Finance and Public Lands, Marianas Visitors Authority, and the CIP Office, among others, *Saipan Tribune* learned, to show how business gross revenue tax has been collected, or how much BGRT has been collected over the last 10 years, for example.

Position statement

“The numbers have not been settled yet. The rates, the whole shebang, the structuring of the bond, the terms—those things are in the making,” Sablan said yesterday. “We are trying to complete what they call a preliminary official statement—part of required documentation that has to be prepared and filed.”

The statement would cover the “whole geography, the economy, the whole shebang,” Sablan said.

If they succeed in marketing the bond, the prospective buyer must be presented with this information to ensure “you

know what you are buying,” Sablan explained.

He said some of the economic information needed is business gross revenue tax information, audited financial statements of previous years, and previous government budgets.

“We are trying to go as far back as five or 10 years to provide a trend, to show where we are going, and where we are, to provide some kind of perspective going forward.”

He said there were a number of benchmarks to go through. “What is the percentage of the proposed debt service [or] annual debt service to the annual general revenue funds collected? The bigger the coverage, the better the situation. Those are the type of things that would come out of this informational package.”

Sablan explained they would have to provide a track record for payments on existing bonds, “whether we have been delayed or delinquent,” but he noted that CDA has been meeting its obligations.

He said they aim to create a

least possible cost to the CNMI with the bond, with reasonable rates, and terms to allow for repayment, as well as terms—in the event the economy substantially improves and the revenue base increase—to also have the option to pay off this loan in advance of its maturity.

Sablan said they would need more evaluation as they go through the numbers. “Any time you access the market you deal with interest,” he said. “The cost to the borrower is reflected in the interest you pay on that borrowing. From the bondholder’s perspective, it’s the yield...from our perspective, it’s the cost that you have to incur.”

At some point, CDA will make a determination on what is feasible, or “what we can basically support without further getting us into a financial bind,” he added.

Need for bond

On the need for the bond, Sablan said “there is still a need for additional cash to meet some of the shortfalls” in government revenue, noting that a major

chunk of the CNMI revenue goes into the Settlement Fund.

“And that cash flow was unanticipated,” he added. “When they entered into the Settlement Fund arrangement, a decision was made for a certain amount of money every year from 2014 fiscal year going forward and the chunk of the money is rather substantial.”

“In addition to the CNMI government making payments to the Settlement Fund for a minimum of the amount specified under the settlement agreement, they also have to appropriate money to maintain and provide continuing coverage under the health insurance,” he said. “It’s in the book that we owe them. But from the cash flow perspective, it’s something that cropped up but has to be paid. So that created a cash flow pressure on the government. So what you do when you have that pressure is you try to relieve that pressure by going into some kind of debt borrowing but make sure that it does not further get you into more financial quagmires,” he said.

DEBRIS

From Page 1

its sights on debris cleanup.

Last Saturday, CARE volunteers helped clean up Dandan of remaining debris.

“We’re removing the wood and the tin because those are the things that are very dangerous in case we have another typhoon,” team lead volunteer Ike Deleon Guerrero said.

Each team sorts the debris by type: wood, tin, and trash.

Guerrero said there are many

reasons why some residents are still unable to clean up their properties themselves.

“The main challenge is they don’t have the transportation or either they’re living alone or they are elderly. They might be disabled or have health issues,” Guerrero said.

According to resident Balbina Rogolifoi, whose house was destroyed and her belongings scattered everywhere, CARE’s assistance has been a big help.

“I like what they are doing. It’s really helpful,” Rogolifoi said.

High school sophomore Jakiir Barcinas Hossain Mallick, also one of the team leaders for the volunteers, has been volunteering for three months since United-4Saipan initiated their work and then for CARE.

“It just makes me happy to help people,” Mallick said.

For CARE executive director Jenny Hegland, who started her volunteer work through U4S since the day after Typhoon Soudelor, she is motivated to reach out to those in need.

“I just have a lot of empathy for people. When I see people suffering, I am very motivated to act,” Hegland said.

She said the coming together of the community has had a positive effect on everyone.

“When people are part of something meaningful that’s bigger than themselves, it just does something to people and I just love being a part of that,” Hegland said.

Nov. 10 marks the 100th day since Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan and Tinian on Aug. 2, 2015.

but he had to work and worry about the 49,000 residents he needed to look after because it was his duty.

“It was very emotional and very challenging,” Seman said.

EOC also sought the help of people from Tinian and Rota like police officer 3 Wally Villagomez and HSEM representative Vivian Hocog.

Villagomez said the experience was good training and helped him respond afterwards to Typhoon Champi when it damaged their water supply on Tinian. Hocog hopes the disaster taught people not to be complacent and to heed warnings.

Despite some criticisms and challenges, Seman said he stands by their actions and decisions.

“A lot of people were upset, a lot of people were frustrated but I am very proud of everybody that did what they did to make a difference. That’s why I’m very proud and honored to work with them. Because in less than three months, we are back on our feet,” he said.

Seman said the disaster showed him how big of a heart the community has, with ordinary people doing what they can to help each other.

“The biggest thing that I learned out of this is that we are one big-hearted community and that’s what drove me to keep things going,” Seman said.

CMS

From Page 1

the hospital’s Medicare provider agreement to Feb. 29, 2016,” the letter, signed by CMS’ Certification and Enforcement Branch manager Rufus Arther, said.

Prior to this extension, the certification was extended to April of this year and then again up to October.

Arther said it is still the hospital’s responsibility to continue complying with Medicare requirements.

“Please bear in mind that although CMS will continue to consult with CHC concerning compliance matters, ultimately it is CHC’s responsibility to ensure that the facility complies with Medicare requirements,” Arther said.

“Accordingly, if compliance cannot be verified prior to Feb. 29, 2016, we will proceed with the termination action,” he added.

CMS noted once again that

based on the findings of a Medicare follow-up survey in September 2014, they were continuing an enforcement process that could result in the termination of CHC’s Medicare hospital provider agreement.

The September 2014 survey identified non-compliance with seven hospital Conditions of Participation, for which a plan of correction was accepted as a credible allegation of compliance in December 2014.

CMS said the extension gives CHC more time to show its capability to sustain compliance with the Conditions of Participations.

“Due to the extent of the deficiencies, the complexity of making fundamental, systemic changes, and in recognition as well of the importance of maintaining access to hospital services for CNMI’s residents, CMS has decided to allow CHC additional time to demonstrate the capacity and commitment to achieve and sustain compliance with all Medicare hospital CoPs,” Arther said.

and entered judgment for retroactive support in the amount of \$14,440.

The decree further gave the mother sole legal and physical custody of the children, subject to visitation rights for Naputi.

Govendo noted that since the entry of his decree, Naputi has only exercised his visitation rights once, sometime in 2012 or 2013.

Govendo said Naputi has not had any other contact with the children.

Govendo said Naputi failed to provide any child support for the children and has back child support totaling \$30,940.

The judge said while the CNMI does not have and should have a specific statute for a proceeding to terminate parental rights, the CNMI Supreme Court gave some guidance.

HEROES

From Page 1

ter on Capital Hill, manned by staff from the Homeland Security and Emergency Management as well as various government departments and agencies, was in full swing even before the typhoon made its closest approach to the island.

That Sunday evening, as the staff hunkered down to let the worst of the typhoon pass, several calls were made by residents seeking help—many of whom were panic-stricken and scared.

Despite the danger, one team went out in the middle of the typhoon to respond to a distress call—there was a bed-ridden patient in a house that had lost its roof.

Mark Borja was part of the response and recovery team who responded to it.

“We went to Wireless [Ridge] the back road way and it took us four hours to get into the location,” Borja said.

The team had to manually cut and clear their way to the location with chainsaws and machetes.

“The house was there but the roof flew away and there was nobody anymore,” Borja said.

He said to be out there in the dark with the strong winds blowing was scary.

“Every time the wind blows hard we hide from whatever might fall,” Borja said.

Logistics chief Eric David was another staff who had to go out the EOC building in the middle of the typhoon.

“Our roof hatch blew out. So I had to take care of that,” said David.

Around midnight, David was on the rooftop fixing the hatch to keep water and wind from going inside the building.

Being the communication specialist, David also needed to go to Mt. Tapochao to refuel the generator of their tower to make sure their radios and means of communication continued to work.

“That system went down. Our generator ran out of fuel. In the middle of the storm we had to go to Mt. Tapochao to refuel. That time was just blackout. It was very dangerous out there,” David said.

That was not the hardest part, though.

“The worst part was getting the call from my wife, crying, screaming that she needs help,” David said.

His wife was alone with their 10-year-old son and David said he couldn’t help but go home. But what is usually just a few minutes drive to their house in Koblerville took David four hours to get to. By that time, it was already daylight. Because

of the devastation, roads were impassable and David had to literally make his own way home.

For David and many others like him, what added to the stress of their work was the burden of not being home with their families when the typhoon struck, as well as after Soudelor when they needed to focus on response and recovery.

After working seven days a week for months, David finally had his day off only last weekend.

Edwin Tenorio of the Department of Public Lands who was assigned to the EOC experienced the same hardship of not being with his family, especially because he hasn’t really been part of an emergency team before. Despite this, he said he felt good helping others.

“You feel good about what you’re doing,” Tenorio said.

Operations deputy section chief John San Nicolas, who is used to responding to disasters, said it was just natural for him to help.

Like San Nicolas, Naomi Ada of the planning section wasn’t also able to go home for a week after Soudelor because of the many tasks that they had to do.

Special assistant to HSEM Marvin Seman was also one of those who couldn’t get to his family when the disaster happened. His own family also had an emergency at home

Landowner accuses CUC of trespass, land taking

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A landowner is suing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for allegedly building a water tank and fences on his property in Rapugao, Saipan, without compensating him.

Paradise Dental Center opens for business

By **DAISY DEMAPAN**
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The island's newest dental clinic, Paradise Dental Center, opened on Monday, offering state-of-the-art general and cosmetic services at their location on Middle Road, Gualo Rai, at the old Commonwealth Development Authority building.

The clinic features x-ray technology that uses 90 percent less radiation than traditional x-rays and does not use any material containing mercury.

As part of their grand opening, new patients are encouraged to avail of a complete dental exam, x-ray, and consultation—a \$200 value—all for free. For those seeking a routine teeth cleaning, the service is priced for \$59.

Clinic owner Dr. Nelson Krum has over 60 years of dental experience, receiving his Doctorate of Dental Science from the University of Colorado School of Dentistry.

Conrad M. Sablan, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, is suing CUC for trespass and taking of property without just compensation.

Sablan is demanding unspecified damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Sablan said he owns several pieces of land in Rapugao that were originally owned by his late father, Vicente.

According to Nicholas in the complaint, in exchange for receiving fee simple ownership of two pieces of land, Sablan's father conveyed to the CNMI government several pieces of real properties, also located in Rapugao.

Nicholas said that Sablan has been unable to access his real properties for quite some time now due to CUC's construction of wire fences around a water tank called Maui IV Water Tank.

The lawyer said that in October 2013 Sablan prepared a survey map of his real properties and discovered that CUC's construction of the wire fences not only prevented him from being able to access one of his properties but, more importantly, that CUC had trespassed on his other property when it built the Maui IV Water Tank.

Nicholas said Sablan sought the assistance of CUC in rectifying the problems, to no avail.

Nicholas said CUC's construction of the wire fences and the Maui IV Water Tank on Sablan's property constitutes trespass and was done without his consent or authority.

The lawyer asserted that CUC's actions constitute a government taking, thus entitling his client to compensation.

According to Nicholas in the complaint, in exchange for receiving fee simple ownership of two pieces of land, Sablan's father conveyed to the CNMI government several pieces of real properties, also located in Rapugao.


Nicholas said that Sablan has been unable to access his real properties for quite some time now due to CUC's construction of wire fences around a water tank called Maui IV Water Tank.

The lawyer said that in October 2013 Sablan prepared a survey map of his real properties and discovered that CUC's construction of the wire fences not only prevented him from being able to access one of his properties but, more importantly, that CUC had trespassed on his other property when it built the Maui IV Water Tank.


Nicholas said Sablan sought the assistance of CUC in rectifying the problems, to no avail.

Nicholas said CUC's construction of the wire fences and the Maui IV Water Tank on Sablan's property constitutes trespass and was done without his consent or authority.

The lawyer asserted that CUC's actions constitute a government taking, thus entitling his client to compensation.



2015 halloween trunk-o-treat



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- Ayuda Network
- USNS Henson
- Yapese Community of Saipan (2 trunks)
- AmeriCorps
- Marianas Health Services
- Nancy & Friends from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- MARPAC (2 trunks)
- Coca-Cola/Foremost (3 trunks)
- Soroptimist International-NMI Chapter (with \$500 donation from Soroptimist International of Guam)
- Saipan FIL/AM Lions Club
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Community Guidance Center-Crisis Counseling Program
- Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort
- IT&E
- TASA Group
- Northern Marianas Humanities Council - CNMI Motherhead-Fatheread Program
- JKPL - Children of Our Homeland Bookmobile

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Raymond James expands in Western Pacific region

» **Recruits \$1-billion institutional team to open office in Guam**

to continuing this momentum and growing the firm's presence in the Pacific."

The advisers of Asia Pacific Group provide a suite of invest-

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—Continuing the firm's expansion in the West, Raymond James recently welcomed a team of two veteran financial advisers and three support staff to a new branch of Raymond

James & Associates—the firm's traditional employee broker/dealer—in Maite, Guam, according to Tash Elwyn, president of RJA's Private Client Group.

The Asia Pacific Group joined Raymond James from Morgan Stanley, where they collectively managed more than \$1 billion in client assets, had approximately \$3 million in annual production and were one of the firm's key institutional consulting groups in the Western Pacific U.S. region. The team is composed of Daniel A. Roland, CIMA, AIF, managing director and senior institutional consultant; Jason B. Miyashita, CRPS, AIFA, senior vice president of investments and senior institutional consultant; and Amber Leon Guerrero, client service associate.

In addition, Maree C. Pelkey, AIF, associate vice president of investments, and Tiffany C. Walsh, client service associate, will be joining Raymond James by the end of November.

"We are pleased Dan and Jason decided to join us as we expand our services to advisors and their clients in the Western Pacific U.S.," said Elwyn. "With more than 50 years of combined industry experience, they are a well-established, respected team that has remained committed to doing what is best for their clients. We are delighted to welcome them to Raymond James as we expand the firm's offerings for both advisors and clients in the region."

"This team marks the first advisors to join Raymond James & Associates in Guam," said Rick Sanchez, West Coast regional director for RJA. "We anticipate growth in Guam through internal development of the team and by attracting new professionals to The Asia Pacific Group, and we look forward

ment services to public funds, endowments, foundations, corporations and high-net-worth investors focusing on managed money, wealth management, estate planning, and retirement and education planning.

"We wanted to find a firm that was truly client-centric and Raymond James offers us that unmatched culture we were looking for," said Roland. "The firm also offers us freedom to run our business, access to firm leadership and the type of support we need to continually provide exceptional service to our clients. We are confident Raymond James was the right move for our practice and our clients."

A founding partner of The Asia Pacific Group, Roland has more than 37 years of institutional investment consulting experience serving endowments, foundations and public funds. He holds a B.S. in finance from the University of Maryland and an MBA in finance and investments from George Washington University.

Miyashita, also a founding partner of The Asia Pacific Group, has more than 12 years of experience in the financial services industry and was born and raised in Guam. He is a graduate of The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania where he studied accounting, finance and strategic management and Guam's Father Duenas Memorial High School.

Guerrero, the newest addition to the group, was born and raised in Guam and has extensive experience in providing business and financial management support. She holds a bachelor of Business Administration from American InterContinental University. (PR)



Roland



Miyashita



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This Veterans Day

we honor and salute those who have fought for our freedom.

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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

HERE, IN THIS AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK, A GRATEFUL NATION HONORS AND MOURNS ITS FALLEN SONS IN THE WORLD WAR II BATTLES FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN, AND THE BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA. THEIR SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE BRIGHT MORNING OF THEIR LIVES, FAR FROM HOME, CONTRIBUTED TO THE VICTORY WON AND TO THE PEACE THAT FOLLOWED. IN SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE, THEIR NAMES ARE HERE FOREVER INSCRIBED. THESE PARK GROUNDS, THE COURT OF HONOR, AND THE FLAG CIRCLE FLYING THE SERVICE COLORS UNDER WHICH THEY BRAVELY FOUGHT ARE DEDICATED IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR LASTING MEMORY.

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1994

Public radio off the air due to repairs on Mt. Tapochau

Public Radio for the Northern Marianas—Saipan's educational, non-commercial NPR affiliate on 89.1FM—is temporarily off the air pending repairs to its transmission facilities on Mt. Tapochau. New parts are to be installed by Friday, Nov. 13.

"Public Radio's antennas survived Soudelor, but not Champi," said Darryl Taggerty, president of Marianas Educational Media Services, Inc., a nonprof-

it corporation that operates the Saipan public radio translator. "We removed damaged components from the tower last Friday for repair."

MEMS delivers three non-commercial radio services to CNMI residents: Public Radio Guam, Catholic Radio network EWTN, and Melodies of Prayer, produced by Guam resident missionary Dr. Edwin Supit. (PR)

Approval sought for \$7.4M Merrill Lynch settlement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Joyce C. H. Tang, the trustee of the CNMI Settlement Fund, has requested the federal court to approve the \$7.4 million settlement that the NMI Retirement Fund's former investment consultant, Merrill Lynch, has agreed to pay the Fund.

According to court records, out of the \$7.35 million settlement, \$1.84 million will go to attorney's fees and \$390,535.60 will go to law firms' expenses and costs. This leaves \$5.12 million in net proceeds for the Settlement Fund.

The parties involved in the arbitration proceeding, pending before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in connection with the Settlement Fund's claims against Merrill Lynch, reached a settlement during a final attempt to mediate in Miami, Florida last July 31.

The settlement requires designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood of the U.S. District Court for the NMI to approve it. She will hear the request

»Of \$7.4M settlement deal, \$5.1M net proceeds will go to Settlement Fund

for approval of the settlement deal on Nov. 20, 2015.

Tang and NMI Settlement Fund counsel Dean A. Manglona asked the court to approve the FINRA settlement and the payment of attorney's fees and reimbursement of costs in papers submitted to the U.S. District Court on Friday.

In her declaration, Tang said Manglona has reviewed the closing statement and detailed cost report, along with supporting invoices and/or receipts. Tang confirmed that the charges are supported by proper documentation, and are reasonable and necessary.

Manglona said the FINRA action settlement was the product of difficult, complicated, and often contentious negotiations.

Manglona said the settlement was reached after prolonged arms-length negotiations and hard-fought media-

tion sessions directed by Robert Herschman, a mediator with extensive FINRA experience.

Manglona said that Tang was directly involved in the mediation sessions and was adamant in pushing the Fund's counsel to demand the highest possible settlement.

The lawyer said that based on Tang's review of the evidence, her participation in the mediation sessions, and her consultation with her legal team and experts, she believes the settlement terms are fair and reasonable and represents the best result the Fund could achieve without taking the considerable risk of proceeding to an arbitration hearing.

In the FINRA action, the Settlement Fund retained the Florida-based Levin law firm as lead counsel, while the O'Connor law firm on Saipan was the referral counsel. The Clay law firm in Hawaii was the associate counsel.

Of the \$1.8 million in attorney's fees, the Levin law firm will get \$1,340,625; the O'Connor law firm will receive \$357,500; and the Clay

law firm will get \$89,375.

The Levin law firm agreed to reimburse Betty Johnson's counsel, Bronster Hoshibata, \$50,000 for legal services and expenses incurred in the arbitration.

Of the \$390,535.60 in reimbursable costs, Levin law firm will get \$338,616.93; the O'Connor law firm will receive \$30,897.24; and the Clay law firm will obtain \$21,021.43.

Merrill Lynch was the Retirement Fund's consultant until 2010. During the time of the consultancy relationship, the value of the Fund's assets reportedly declined substantially.

Mariano Taitano, Roman Tudela, and Patricia Guerrero, through counsel, sued the Fund's board, Merrill Lynch, and others in Superior Court, alleging various causes of action for damage relating to the decline in the Fund's assets.

The matter was submitted to arbitration before FINRA. Taitano, Tudela, and Guerrero subsequently transferred their claims against Merrill Lynch to the Settlement Fund.

Rotary Las Vegas Night on Jan. 9, 2016

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Prepare yourselves for another round of blackjack, roulette, bingo, and Texas hold 'em as the Rotary Club of Saipan begins tickets sales this month for its signature event, Las Vegas Night.

The Rotary Club of Saipan has set up the distribution of tickets to Rotarians in preparation for Las Vegas Night set for Jan. 9, 2016, from 6pm to midnight at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Tickets are on sale for \$5 apiece or \$20 per booklet.

The night's extravagant prizes will include \$500 in cash and door prizes and the popular \$10,000 cash or a 2016 Mazda 3 Sport option.

Las Vegas Night was originally set for Halloween but was pushed back to Jan. 9 to allow more time for sales. The annual event serves as one of the Rotary Club's biggest fundraisers to finance the club's community projects.

For more information on how you can purchase tickets or volunteer for the event, contact saipanrotary@gmail.com.



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Veterans Day

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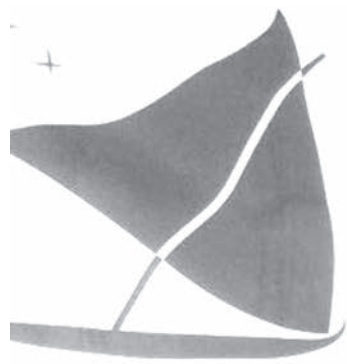


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Northern Marianas Humanities Council

Nurturing the Human Experience



Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja students Jeremy John Atalig II and Angelo S. Lucero.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Atalig wins 2nd place in Sengebau poetry contest

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council's 12th Annual Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition was held on Oct. 29, 2015, at Charley's, Pacific Islands Club on Saipan.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja participated in the Junior Division, where junior high/middle school students must recite a poem from Sengebau's book, *Microchild*. The poem must be from the Cultural Identity, Politics, or Images sections, and students were asked to give a 1- to 3-minute introduction explaining why he or she chose the specific poem.

Eighth-grader Angelo Lucero and seventh-grader Jeremy John Atalig II represented Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja after winning their school level recital event.

Competing for the first time, Atalig came second—a strong showing that could have given Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja its third win in a row.

"I praised Angelo and Jeremy for their dedication and hard work they put in to defend our title," said administrator-principal Carmen H. Atalig. "We have good reason to be proud of our student representatives of the Luta community."

"Next year I will bring back the perpetual plaque where it belongs," said Atalig, the son of proud parents Jeremy and Imelda H. Atalig. (ESFDB)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 15th birthday to Mackenzie Perez, who is celebrating her special day today. The possibilities are endless, so choose your own adventure. Wishing you the very best! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, and Nathan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the DPW Channel Bridge, Smiling Cove Marina, and the Fiesta Resort drainage on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Outdoor movie night on Saturday

The Friends of the Arts is sponsoring an outdoor movie night on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Navy Hill ball field (Bring your own chair!). The event will feature two great movies and three show times. *How to Train Your Dragon 2* (G) will be screened starting at 7:30pm. This will be followed by *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (PG-17) at 10pm and midnight. Ticket price per movie is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children 11 and under. (FOA)

PTSA meeting at San Antonio school

San Antonio Middle School will

have a PTSA meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, starting at 5:30 pm. Immediately after the PTSA meeting, the teachers will distribute the first quarter report cards to all parents. (PR)

Veterans Day today

The Office of the Governor, CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office, and the Veterans Day Committee are inviting the public to the Veterans Day ceremony today at the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor starting at 11am. Come and join us celebrate and honor those brave patriots who served and are still serving, with unwavering dedication and purpose, sacrifice their personal comforts to keep the world safe, and secure the freedom we enjoy today. will be held (PR)

Survivors & caregivers support meeting on Nov. 12

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

Micronesian canoe arrives at historic S. Carolina plantation

CHARLESTON, South Carolina—An exotic paddling canoe from the remote Pacific Islands of Yap has arrived at Point of Pines, a 17th century plantation on Edisto Island, South Carolina. The native mahogany outrigger will be the first of its kind to enter South Carolina's coastal waters in over 400 years of recorded nautical history.

A symbol of the longstanding friendship between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia, the canoe represents months of painstaking craftsmanship, and centuries of traditional technique. This custom craft was hand built by the master carvers and apprentices with "Waa'gey," a cultural preservation and mentorship program operating throughout Yap. The westernmost state

in Micronesia, the tiny islands and atolls of Yap are scattered across 500 miles of ocean, just south of the U.S. territory of Guam. An American protectorate following its liberation in World War II, Micronesia is now a sovereign nation in a special "Compact" with the United States.

The gift of this one-of-a-kind craft was prompted by generous support from private citizens across the United States—and in particular South Carolina—following Super Typhoon May-sak, a record-setting storm that ravaged Yap and Chuuk states in the spring of 2015. Delivery of the donated canoe is being organized by Habele, a South Carolina headquartered charity serving students throughout Yap and across Micronesia.

Habele solicited, coordinated, and delivered relief supplies to pupils and educators in the wake of the storm.

Matt Coleman, a South Carolina resident who spent a month in Yap coordinating Habele's efforts, emphasized the significance of the canoe's arrival. "Americans who may never see the islands of Yap showed overwhelming generosity in the wake of the storm. These donors aren't on island to see the transformative impact of their kindness, but they can see this canoe, and know that friendship isn't something built on proximity."

For centuries, Micronesians have hand-fashioned canoe keels from mahogany logs. Planks are fitted and tied with

rope made from coconut fibers to complete the watertight sides. These graceful crafts appear symmetrical, with sternposts and stems protruding up from the keel in forks that islanders liken to lizard tongues. An outrigger steadies the canoe. The contemporary design remains identical to that detailed by Spanish missionaries in the early 1700s, who called the Micronesian canoes "flying proas."

The canoe's point of origin and its new berth share historical ties with the Spanish Empire. In 1686, the islands of Yap were sighted and first claimed as Spanish colony. That same year—over 7,000 miles away—Point of Pines

Plantation was burned by Spanish raiders from Florida hoping to expel English colonists from present day South Carolina.

"This canoe is authentic enough for museum display, and functional enough to take shrimping in South Carolina's tidal creeks," said Larry Raigetal of Waa'gey. "It's made from local materials, with traditional tools, and we are excited about our friends in South Carolina putting it to good use."

Raigetal's group was one of many Yap-based organizations who partnered with Habele and other U.S. public and private donors to orchestrate and deliver relief supplies, a process which is still ongoing. Others include Pacific Missionary

Airlines, the Fais Ulithi Ngulu Sorol Organization, as well as Yap State's own Office of the Governor, Department of Education, and Sea Transportation Department.

"The partnerships created to support communities' recovery from the super typhoon reflect the foundation of the U.S.-Micronesian relationship: person-to-person connections," said Raigetal. "I hope this canoe, perhaps the most powerful symbol of Micronesian culture and tradition, will highlight how much individual Micronesians value those friendships."

Formal dedication and commissioning of the canoe is planned for the spring on Edisto Island. *(Habele)*

GHD engineer achieves Certified Construction Manager certification

GHD, a global engineering, environmental and construction services company, congratulates Paul Barn in passing the Certified Construction Manager exam given by the Construction Management Certification Institute.

Out of 2,600 professionals holding the CCM certification, Barn is the only one currently working in the Marianas, based on the CMCI listing.

The CCM designation is highly regarded by clients and other industry professional in the U.S. mainland and other parts of the globe. It recognizes the ability to apply effective management techniques to the planning, design, and construction of a project from inception to completion, while controlling time, cost, and quality. Barn noted that "the CCM credential is also something that fits the region's current needs due to the large casino, military and government construction projects that are ongoing and planning to start."

The credential is recognized by the Construction Management Association of America as the worldwide "gold standard" in construction management. The CCM is also the

only construction management certification accredited by the American national Standards Institute under the International Organization for Standardization's ISO 17024 Standard.

Barn leads GHD's team in the Marianas, which has been serving the region for more than 25 years, performing permitting, engineering design and construction management on a wide variety of projects.

He has extensive experiences in the Pacific, holding a Registered Professional Engineer status in Guam, the CNMI and Hawaii. Barn is also an Accredited Professional in Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design and a Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control.

"GHD encourages its people to achieve professional accreditation in their disciplines. It reflects our commitment to offering clients leading edge technical capabilities in Guam and around the globe," Barn said.

GHD (www.ghd.com) is one of the world's leading professional services companies operating in the global markets of water, energy and resources, environment, property and buildings, and transportation. *(GHD)*

Sablan is StayWell Saipan's new manager

StayWell Saipan, Inc., welcomes Florence C. Sablan as its new branch manager.

Sablan is the former executive director of the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing/Health Care Professions Licensing Board. She worked for the CNMI government for 26 years and is excited to be back in the private sector. She was also a board member and chairwoman of Disaster Services for the American Red Cross NMI Chapter for over 20 years.

"[Sablan's] wealth of experi-

ence and community involvement are a great asset to our company," said Maria D.R. Taitano, vice president of administration. "We are fortunate to have her on our team and we look forward to continued growth with her on board."

StayWell Insurance has been serving the CNMI for over 25 years offering affordable healthcare coverage to both government and private sector employees. StayWell Saipan, Inc., is located at the Spring's Plaza Building on Middle Road, Saipan. *(PR)*



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Hero-traitor: The Justice Dept. should offer Snowden a deal

The European Parliament has urged its member states to embrace American fugitive Edward Snowden as a “whistle-blower and international human rights defender.” The former National Security Agency contractor remains in Russia, and the Justice Department has ignored his public entreaties for a plea deal that would allow him to return to the United States and face charges.

Alternately hailed as a hero and traitor, Snowden has said he is willing to go to jail in order to return home. The United States should offer him a deal. As other countries move to protect him, the Justice Department looks vindictive in its refusal to negotiate, and Snowden’s status as a heroic figure grows the longer he remains on foreign soil, tweeting about privacy abuses.

Snowden fled to Hong Kong in 2013, before the United States charged him with theft and espionage for releasing millions of classified documents about government surveillance. Now living in Russia, he has amassed 1.6 million followers on Twitter, appeared live via video at conferences and posed for the cover of *Wired* magazine wrapped in an American flag.

In March, Snowden’s attorney said his client wants to come home if he can be assured of a fair trial. Although former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder hinted in July of a “resolution that everybody could ultimately be satisfied with,” none has been forthcoming, and a spokesman for the National Security Council said after the European Parliament vote that “our position has not changed” on the felony charges Snowden faces.

Snowden’s case does not merit a pardon, but a negotiated deal is in order. Gen. David Petraeus gave classified information to his mistress and later lied to the FBI—a crime later reduced to a misdemeanor, mishandling classified information, in a plea deal. He didn’t go to jail, but Snowden is willing to, even though his crime, unlike that of Petraeus, did the public actual good. Earlier this year, President Barack Obama signed the USA Freedom Act, the law that curtails the bulk data collection that Snowden exposed.

It’s time for Snowden to come home. Obama should make it happen and not leave the issue a political football for the next administration to kick around.

(c)2015 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Veterans Day

World War I ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Veterans Day (not to be confused with Memorial Day, which honors those who perished in service) is also Armistice Day in the United States and Remembrance Day in other parts of the world, the day to recognize and honor *all* those who served the military service, and since the Pentagon went globally imperial after WWII, that is a lot of vets.

A historical look-see shows that Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Armistice Day 1919, “...because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with *peace* and *justice* in the councils of the nations.” In 1939, it became Veterans Day “dedicated to the cause of *world peace* ...” (preceding italics added). Veterans Day (possessive apostrophe left out) is thus not a day for flexing military muscles to show might but a resolve to pursue peace.

With a higher per capita rate of enlistment and casualties in the armed forces, the CNMI is natural for the staid command and the smart salute. When I meet some of my elementary students, I can tell who put in their two years in the service—reflective black shoes.

Two nephews served in the Marines, one in Kuwait who took advantage of the GI Bill to get his bachelor’s degree at a community college; the other returned to college, too, but stayed in the service and re-enlisted in Afghanistan for active duty. I love them both dearly but mum is the word on my nephews’ choice of profession.

JFK initiated the Peace Corps in ‘63, and I learned to ride the 60cc motorcycle from them. Later, I worked with a Peace Corps volunteer in Micronesia, then led their orientation program on community development in the Philippines ‘83-’84. One of them became a teacher at NMC but has since concentrated on ukulele art and skill.

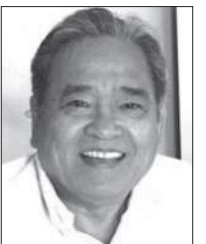
I remember walking in Greensboro, NC’s main street with students singing, *What we are saying, is give “peace” a chance*. I valued my time with the U.S. Peace Corps if only for the word “peace” as opposed to training on instruments of mass destruction that followed the U.S. after WWII and the Korean War, resulting in the Cold War with the then-USSR. Civil engineers did have an exemplary track record of reconstruction after devastations as a consequence of armed conflict.

A new officer in the Manila PCV office during the Reagan take-over of DC took exception to my taking Muslim Mindanao volunteers to Jolo, Sulu, during their orientation training in Zamboanga City ‘83. Jolo was once the seat of the Sultanate of Sulu whose extensive map of 1822 included a huge portion of North Borneo, aka Sabah, though *thalassocracy* (rule of the sea) extended north to Palawan, east to western Mindanao and the areas north of the Sultanate of Brunei.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



That nothing untoward occurred during the PCV trip to the heart of Philippine Islam did not matter. It was the notion that a training director in the south can decide without first seeking the consent of the head office north (something akin to San Diego asking San Francisco’s OK to a trip to Tijuana). I was not retained to do another training, though informally told at the start to do one more; unfortunately, contracts were drawn quarterly.

The tactical discipline of the military command holds a better organizational candle to the rugged individualism of Peace Corps volunteers, used by some in the U.S. military service to sneer at the PCV organizational setup. However, in a time of democratic process where the individual takes precedence over corporate presence, the efforts of the PCV toward person-to-person cooperation and coordination are enormous.

The American Memorial Park and the Pacific Historic Parks hosted their inaugural “Peace Day” Sunday a month ago on Saipan. I can hear the carillon bells at vespers ringing in my inner ear, in the same way that the carillon at the Iwo Jima memorial by Arlington Cemetery used to be an eerie sound when I lived downtown Rosslyn VA.

Armistice Day was for peace and justice; Veterans Day aimed for world peace. With the Peace Sunday initiated, I find the carillon bells more appropriate for “peace” than volleys of a 21-gun salute.

On Hallows weekend, “heavenly peace” was a metaphor widely used, a desired state of being more than a geographical location. The sign of the cross is a mark of peace, done at Angelus, and alighting down a stair. *Anno Domini* is the reign of a suffering servant; *Anno Mundi* traced Jewish liberation from captivity in an exodus into the Promised Land that began long before in the telling of *creatio ex nihilo*. Two Talmudic traditions trace that lineage with results that differ by considerable years but the attempt both complete the journey in the *Biblos’* apocalypse to the followers of Iesu.

Science negates the limited Talmudic 7,000-year journey of humankind and measures 4.5 billion years of *Gaia’s* existence. Humans change (the divine right of kings was once an irrefutable datum).

Not a warrior of war, I journey in peace. Join the procession, vets. *Shalom!*

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sinking living standards

The fading-echo of the “solutions driven” slogan gets you quizzical what happened to the boisterous assertion once loaded with confidence. Has it been neutered, starved, or pounded into submission?

Or is it the usual common fallacy of customary promises instantly ignored after an election? Or has the slogan morphed into another fully greased switcheroo?

Measured against the growing sentiment of sinking living standards that equally reduces individual family economic freedom, there’s nothing but hopelessness in most corners here. There’s just one too many cringing faces most everywhere you go.

How long could our people endure below federal and local abject poverty income level? Isn’t it that some 51 percent are in this cat-

egory for about 14 years now? “Solutions driven” has become an Orwellian joke!

A lot of what turns into near-irreversible mess in the community initially begins with the imposition of “rehearsed” suspect confidence from imperial Capital Hill. Each is so designed to foster confusion for lack of realistic answers. If the “biba” and the price is right, *fuegu Lodrigu!*

Crushed by debts: Politicians ought to know by now that many of the reading public could discern the truth from the apparent quiet as they may be. The village folks are ever ready to take their government to task on this score. Slowly, they’re coming out of their bought and paid for convenience. Remember the \$10 million in CUC payment by BSI? Done! Trust me. They’re watching!

Everyday, men and women sit at the kitchen table literally straining to stretch their dollars in the shrinking family checks. Many can’t save anything at all for future retirement and not when family income has stagnated or remained the same for 14 years now.

Folks everywhere are simply crushed by debts and family obligations way beyond the strength of their incomes. Are solutions driven answers anywhere near the kitchen table?

Prescription: Two doctors stopped by our tiny town and offered “solutions driven” prescription as the single pill cure-all. They’ve pulled out their books to read the treatment plan. Only problem is it’s the wrong book. What they’ve been reading is how to make coconut candy, not resolve socio-economic issues! *A `saina dios mihu!*

Do you really have the wherewithal to resolve poverty in a viciously highly depressed economy? With revenue generation headed south what would be your source of funds under a deepening fiscal crisis? Didn’t Planning and Budget Office and Department of Finance keep you abreast of deepening fiscal crisis that has already begun?

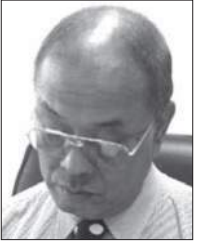
I’m usually generous to a fault but when you purposely screw things up by mouthing off heedlessly, it gets to another level of critical scrutiny. You see, the lieutenant governor promised to resolve healthcare issues as head of the House Committee on Health several years ago. For all his pomposity he never did and, yes, he failed too! Would “poverty” be his second signature failure or would there be subsequent others?

Why do you tell people what they already know that only insults their intelligence? How could you be so callous to reiterate to 51

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



percent under federal poverty income level folks of their condition? It’s like telling “the world’s worst-off people, suffering from tuberculosis, malaria or malnutrition, that what they really need isn’t medicine, mosquito nets or micronutrients, but a solar panel.” Eh, we may not look it but we have brains too, pal!

Sense vs. cents: I’ve listened with a sense of neutrality to arguments on the emerging land lease renewal controversy. DPL initially encouraged negotiations then shifted gears declaring that talks would commence upon complete reversion of land and improvements.

DPL is not obligated to do anything per the position it has taken. It has stayed constitutional. The shift did nothing but spur a myriad of speculative discussions: Why abort the original position that facilitates negotiations?

Would the powers-that-be listen to the clamor of village voices or simply engage use of dismissive inconsequence in hopes the issue is dies forever? It remains to be seen.

■ ■ ■

Reno, Nevada, has begun dismantling casino as its mainstay, moving in stride into a vision of becoming a manufacturing hub for cars and other consumer products.

Hmmm! Somehow this industry has simply reached a saturation point, forcing leadership to engage in economic diversification.

The fast moving train of growth primarily from China places a huge challenge on the elected elite here to either go for broke or slam the brakes of impending unbridled growth right here now. Keeping my ears to the ground just to see the undercurrents. You should do the same too.

LITERARY NOOK

Dusk 'Til Dawn

By RIZA RAMOS

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

He saw the dusk mask the horizon,
the day slowly concealed by darkness;
he was waiting for the dawn,
when the sun slowly peaks at the west.
Three days the dusk and dawn his clock,
aching body stretched on a cold rough rock;
at night the crickets made some company,
singing sweet song to ease his agony.
Cracked lips, dry mouth, numb feet,
he slowly closed his tired droopy eyes;
dusk comes again that dusk could not defeat
the man who wants to see the dawn.
Daylight. August 10, 1938, Sugar king Park Saipan.
“Here’s another wounded soldier!”
I am a veteran! I am strong! I survived!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Appeal for financial assistance and support

On Aug. 2, 2015, Typhoon Soudelor made landfall on Saipan, causing extensive damage. The typhoon reached its peak intensity with winds of 215 km/h (130 mph) on Aug. 3 and was the most intense typhoon to strike Saipan in nearly 30 years. It has damaged more than 1,200 homes and caused massive destruction and completely ravaged community centers.

The CNMI Hindu Community Center, which also houses the only Radha-Krishna temple on Saipan, suffered intensive damage, with the complete loss of the roof and the building flooded. Typhoon Goni followed on Aug. 23, bringing heavy rain and caused further hardship to the people of Saipan by further hampering the relief efforts and the reconstruction of buildings. A contractor has estimated the repair of the CNMI Hindu Community Center to cost \$127,556.

Since the CNMI Hindu Community Center was the only available place for community activities, finding solace and performing worship, the community would like to appeal for financial assistance and support from both residential as well as business community of Saipan and beyond to rebuild the community center in this difficult time.

You can either donate cash by sending a check or through wire transfer to the CNMI Hindu Community Inc., First Hawaiian Bank account no. 12-016158 or by mail to P.O. Box 500625, Saipan, MP 96950-0625, USA.

The USA routing numbers for check orders, direct deposits, EFTs, ACH transfers, etc. is 121403065. Routing numbers for wires is 121301015. Swift code (for foreign wires) is FHBKUS77. Send checks in favor of the CNMI Hindu Community Inc., P.O. Box 500592, CK, Saipan, MP-96950, USA.

Or you may contact Anand Rajanna Katta at 1 (670) 235-8555 (home) or 1 (670) 483-8554 (mobile). Alternate contact is Jagdish Roy at 1 (670) 285-2935 (mobile).

Your contribution today will allow us to further mobilize our members and accelerate rebuilding the community center. Thank you in advance. We appreciate your support.

Anand Rajanna Katta
CNMI Hindu Community Inc.

100 years later, Einstein’s theory of relativity stands strong

It is not often that a centenarian is just as spry and vital as the day she was born, but that’s the case with the general theory of relativity.

This month we are celebrating exactly 100 years since the meeting in which Albert Einstein announced the completion of his masterful theory of how gravity works. His grand theory relating the geometry of space and time to the matter and energy within it represents an extraordinary triumph of the human imagination.

Before Einstein, there was Isaac Newton, who had offered a simpler, but much less satisfying theory of gravity.

Contrary to popular myth, Newton did not discover gravity. From earliest times, no one could mistake the fact that things fall down if released from a certain height. Rather, Newton demonstrated that gravity is a universal force with certain predictable properties. This force could act over immense distances, linking, for instance, the Sun and the Earth as if an invisible string tied them together.

Although Newton’s theory was very successful, it contained a logical flaw: the idea that gravity could be transmitted instantly. If the Sun suddenly disappeared, his theory predicted that Earth would immediately sense its absence, as if a thread were cut, and start traveling in a straight line through space.

Yet Einstein had showed in his special theory of relativity (the predecessor to the general theory), space has a speed limit. No signal in empty space can travel faster than the speed of light. The Sun’s light takes eight minutes to reach Earth. Therefore, Earth could not possibly respond to the Sun’s disappearance in less than that time period—certainly not instantly.

Einstein’s general relativity beautifully recasts gravitation as a local, rather than long-distance, phenomenon. The equations he announced in November 1915 show precisely how it is the fabric of space and time—known in tandem as spacetime—that conveys gravity.

Much like a turbulent wild river with eddies and currents that change the course of boats, spacetime’s bumps and ripples compel planets and stars to alter their paths. In the case of Earth, a gravitational well compels Earth to travel in an elliptical orbit rather than in a straight line. The cause of that indentation in spacetime is the mass of the Sun. Or, as often expressed by the

By PAUL HALPERN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Paul Halpern is a University of the Sciences physics professor and the author of Einstein’s Dice and Schrodinger’s Cat: How Two Great Minds Battled Quantum Randomness to Create a Unified Theory of Physics He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.



late gravitational physicist John Wheeler (who came to know Einstein well), space tells matter how to move and matter, in turn, tells space how to curve.

How Einstein’s theory was tested offers an important lesson in the value of international cooperation.

Einstein predicted that the paths of light rays would be diverted by the presence of massive objects. He estimated the angle by which starlight would bend in the vicinity of the Sun and pointed out that this distortion could be measured during a solar eclipse.

To accomplish this task, Einstein found a friend in British astronomer Arthur Eddington, who organized expeditions to West Africa and South America, in spring 1919, where a solar eclipse could readily be seen. The remarkable thing about the collaboration between Einstein and Eddington was that it took place shortly after World War I, when their two native countries (Germany and the United Kingdom) had been enemies. Both thinkers were pacifists and hated nationalism, which made such cooperation easier.

During the summer of 1919, the eclipse results were analyzed and compared to predictions based on Newtonian physics. Although the data was sparse, the results fell much closer to Einstein’s forecast than one based on Newton’s theory of gravitation. Thus it came to pass that in November 1919 the British Royal Academy announced that Einstein’s theory was triumphant.

The confirmation of general relativity generated startling headlines around the world. The firmament of the heavens was no longer stable and secure, rather it was an ever-changing canvas. Nothing in science was stable. In fact, 10 years later, results by American astronomer Edwin Hubble showed that the universe itself was expanding—another prediction of general relativity.


For various reasons, including its lack of correspondence with quantum mechanics, the other major theory developed in the early 20th century, physicists have tried to modify general relativity. Nevertheless, despite a century of effort, Einstein’s masterpiece still stands strong.

Let’s offer a toast to the beauty of the venerable equations describing the cosmos, and wish them well for decades to come—unless, that is, a quantum version comes along.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼77°


THURSDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼77°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°


SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

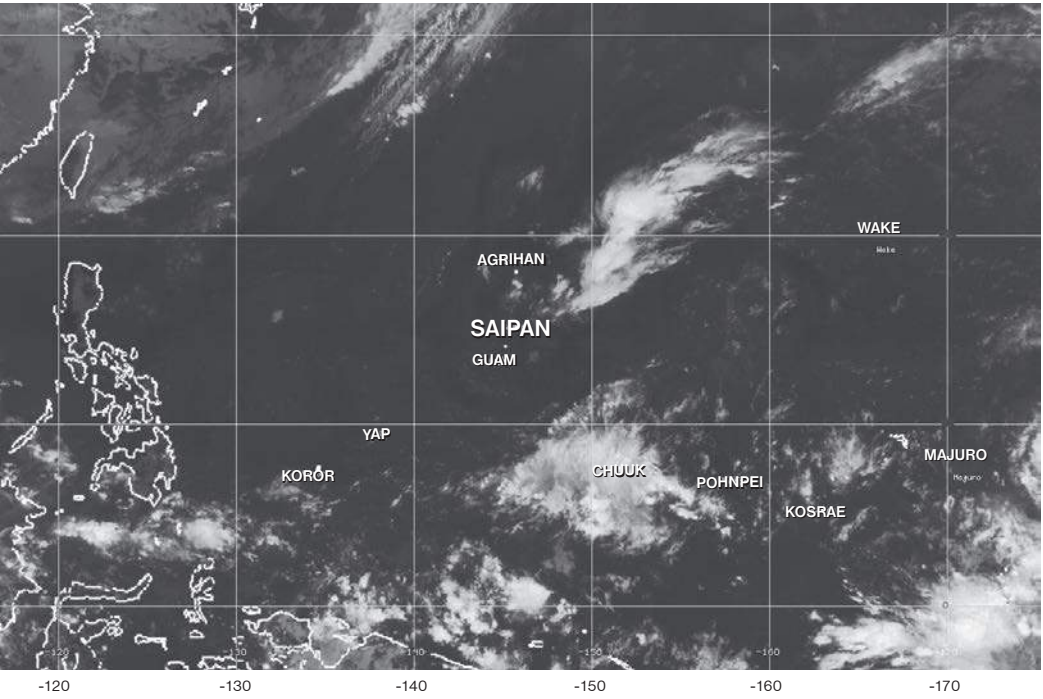
SUNDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image




PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeast from 16N150E to 24N155E. An upper-level trough extends north-east across the Marianas from 14N138E through an upper low centered near 19N149E to beyond 25N153E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are seen northeast of Saipan within 100 miles of a line from 16N148E to 24N156E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E to beyond the date line at 1N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring southeast of Yap south of a line from EQ141E to 3N144E to EQ149E over Chuuk within 200 miles of a line from 8N147E to 4N154E south of Majuro south of a line from EQ169E to 3N172E to 3N180 and finally, east of Majuro between 5N and 10N from 174E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 87	▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 88	▼ 79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 88	▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 88	▼ 78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69	▼ 57
Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 51	▼ 41
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81	▼ 74
Honolulu	Windy	▲ 86	▼ 76
London	Cloudy	▲ 61	▼ 54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 68	▼ 47
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 92	▼ 75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73	▼ 54
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87	▼ 73
New York	Showers	▲ 61	▼ 53
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63	▼ 53
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 60	▼ 52
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 65	▼ 52
Rome	Sunny	▲ 70	▼ 50
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55	▼ 44
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 60	▼ 48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64	▼ 46
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62	▼ 51
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 61	▼ 50



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
6:52 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:17 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:17 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:18 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:37 AM	5:32 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	7:17 AM	7:02 PM
Saturday	8:08 AM	7:51 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM	8:42 PM

NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily		
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA2920	12:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota		
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily		
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL298	10:35am	3:15pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1			7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6		
OZ626	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7		
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily			OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7			OZ625	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5			OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily		
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily		
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7								
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM		
OZ626/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM		
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN		
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM			UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota		
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM			UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM			UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota		
						UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM		
						UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ626/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN			OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN		
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			2D8010	7:25pm	2:35am+1	Nov 1, 6, 11, 15, 20, 25, 29, Dec 4, 9, 13, 18, 23, 27		
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM								
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		
2D8009	1:55pm	5:15pm	Nov 1, 6, 11, 15, 20, 25, 29, Dec 4, 9, 13, 18, 23, 27			UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM		
						UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota		
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM			UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		
						UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.								
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM							

GCA students show excellence in public speaking

"There are many types of monkey species. Orangutans are monkeys that are endangered. Their habitat is in the tropical rainforest. My advice for you is leave the endangered and non-endangered species for they will grow then you can hunt them. The cycle will grow and continue over and over again."

This is an excerpt from Anthony Jacob Camacho De Leon Guerrero's winning impromptu speech in the November Primary Grades Forensic Conference second monthly qualifying competition held at Chacha Oceanview Middle School.

"Jakey," as fondly called by his family, is a consistent first place winner in impromptu speaking. He won first place in the same event last October, and he also won first place in duo interpretation in the October and November competitions, together with his 5th grade classmate, Matthew Ernest.

Winning all the five first places in both K-2 and 3-5 divisions last October and four out of the six first places in November only show that Grace Christian Academy students are excellent Impromptu speakers.

Esther Manzano, GCA's PGFC coach/coordinator, is very proud of her students. Impromptu speaking is her favorite event of all the six events in PGFC because it is the most unpredictable, most exciting, and full of surprises. No one can tell what will happen because competitors just pick up and choose a topic and talk about it on the spot with only five minutes preparation. She believes that impromptu speaking is an excellent training ground for students to improve their public speaking.

The GCA family is very proud of all their PGFC participants and say thank you also to all the teachers and judges. Below is the list of all the November winners from K5 to 5th grade.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy's contingent to the November Primary Grades Forensic Conference's second monthly qualifying competition at Chacha Oceanview Middle School have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

K-2 DIVISION

K5

Humorous Interpretation

Avania Clarise Quichocho, 2nd place

Dramatic interpretation

Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 3rd Place

Impromptu Speaking

Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 3rd Place

Choral Speaking

Llyanna Jaira Manalang, 4th Place
Joanella Yarofalir, 4th Place
Nevaeh Camacho, 4th Place
Devin Wang, 4th Place

1ST GRADE

Humorous Interpretation

Arielle Mae Matutino, 4th Place

Dramatic interpretation

Maria Sofia Gomez, 4th Place

Duo Interpretation

Aiden Gerard Camacho, 5th Place
Min Su Andy Kim, 5th Place

Readers Forum

Reyone Kent Aldan, 2nd Place

Impromptu Speaking

Maria Sofia Gomez, 3rd Place

Choral Speaking

Min Su Andy Kim, 5th Place
Clarisse Angelique Marzan, 5th Place
Patricia Matsumoto, 5th Place
Arielle Mae Matutino, 5th Place
Marisa Wang, 5th Place

2ND GRADE

Dramatic interpretation

William Matthew Cano, 1st Place

Impromptu Speaking

Yellena Sarang Kim, 1st Place
Nestor Ablog Jr., 1st Place
Earl Jean Pantaleon, 2nd Place
Rafael Busby, 2nd Place
William Matthew Cano, 5th Place

Readers Forum Masters

Rafael Busby, 3rd Place

3-5 DIVISION

3RD GRADE

Readers Forum

Jennifer Woo, 1st Place
Katelyn Mafnas, 2nd Place

Readers Forum Masters

Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 4th Place

Dramatic Interpretation

Moira Grace Ernest, 3rd Place

Humorous Interpretation A

Tae Hee Kim, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking

Julianna Rue Magtalas, 4th Place

4TH GRADE

Impromptu Speaking

Julia Jinang, 2nd Place

Readers Forum Masters

Julia Jinang, 5th Place

5TH GRADE

Impromptu Speaking

Jacob Anthony De Leon Guerrero, 1st Place

Soleil Lamar, 1st Place

Brandie Matsumoto, 4th Place

Dramatic Interpretation

Steven Adriatico, 2nd Place

Duo Interpretation

Jacob Anthony De Leon Guerrero, 1st Place
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 1st Place
Soleil Lamar, 5th Place
Hye Jin Elliot, 5th Place

Readers Forum

Katriel Saures, 5th Place

Readers Forum Masters

Steven Adriatico, 2nd Place
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 3rd Place

Teachers/coaches K5 Teacher,

Sheryl Joy Prieto, 1st Grade Teacher, Rosanna Lopez, 2nd Grade Teacher, Miriam Dilse, 3rd Grade Teacher, Maria Gerecke, 4th Grade Teacher, Tammy Dammer, 5th Grade Teacher, Grace Duran

PGFC Coach/Coordinator, Esther Manzano

Judges/volunteers: Grace Duran, Leah Garfil, Sheryl Joy Prieto, Tammy Dammer, Marilyn Aldan, Bel Busby, Gail Manalang, Bethany Garfil, Melody Woo, Jewel Cubangbang



CONGRATULATIONS!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to newlyweds, Smeddy and Julia Techur, who pledged their vows of marriage in front of family and friends on Nov. 7, 2015, in Peoria, AZ. Smeddy is the son of John Wayne and Lucy Techur, while Julia is the daughter of John Joseph "JJ" V. and Samantha Salas.

FRIENDS OF THE ARTS PRESENTS
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OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT
TWO GREAT
MOVIES!

KIDS SHOWTIME: 7:30 PM
ADULT SHOWTIME: 10:00 PM AND 12:00 AM

LOCATION: NAVY HILL BASEBALL FIELD
DATE: NOV. 14, 2015
TICKET PRICE: FOR KIDS UNDER 11-\$3 | ADULTS \$5
CHILDREN UNDER 17 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT FOR THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

OTHER INFO: BRING YOUR OWN BEACH CHAIRS | SNACK BAR AVAILABLE

Business

SeaWorld says it will end orca shows in San Diego by 2017

SAN DIEGO (AP)—SeaWorld will end orca shows at its San Diego park after visitors at the tourist attraction made it clear they prefer seeing killer whales act naturally rather than doing tricks, the company's top executive said Monday.

CEO Joel Manby told investors the park—where the iconic “Shamu” show featuring killer whales doing flips and other stunts debuted decades ago—will offer a different kind of orca experience focusing on the animal's natural setting and behaviors, starting in 2017.

Animal rights activists called the move a marketing gimmick and want the company to phase out holding any whales in captivity.

“An end to SeaWorld's tawdry circus-style shows is inevitable and necessary, but it's captivity that denies these far-ranging orcas everything that is natural and important to them,” said Jared Goodman of the Peo-

ple for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. “This move is like no longer whipping lions in a cir-

cus act but keeping them locked inside cages for life.”

The Orlando, Florida-based

company has seen revenue drop since the 2013 release of the documentary “Blackfish” that

examined how orcas respond to captivity. It chronicles the case of Tilikum, a killer whale that caused the death of trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010 by pulling her into a pool at SeaWorld Orlando.

Attendance has dropped the most at the San Diego location, and the decision to end orca shows will be limited for now to that park, the original home of Shamu, its first orca.

The shows will continue at the other two SeaWorld parks in San Antonio and Orlando.

The killer whale shows at the Shamu stadium in San Diego were the park's main draw in the 1970s and helped build SeaWorld as a top tourist attraction. Trainers would ride the whales in the giant pool before getting out and signaling for the orca to slap its tail in the water to splash spectators in a “splash zone.”

After Brancheau's death, trainers stopped going in the water during the shows, but they continue to swim with the killer whales while training them.

Manby told investors Monday that California customers want to see less theatrical pro-

duction, so the new attraction will have a strong conservation message.

“They want the orca experience to be activities the whales do in the wild,” Manby said. “Things they perceive as tricks, they don't like as well.”

However, that's not “universal across our properties,” he added.

The news came days after SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. reported its third-quarter earnings missed Wall Street expectations.

SeaWorld earlier this year announced plans for a \$100 million expansion of the killer whale tanks in San Diego to boost attendance, but the California Coastal Commission made approval of the project, dubbed “Blue World,” contingent on SeaWorld agreeing not to breed, transfer or sell any of its captive orcas at the park.

Manby called the ruling—which SeaWorld plans to fight in court—a bad precedent for not only SeaWorld but all zoos and aquariums. He indicated to investors that the company might shelve the San Diego project.



In this Nov. 30, 2006, file photo, people watch through glass as a killer whale swims by in a display tank at SeaWorld in San Diego.

VW diesel owners to get \$1,000 in gift cards and vouchers

DETROIT (AP)—Owners of 482,000 diesel Volkswagens and Audis in the U.S. are eligible for \$1,000 in gift cards and vouchers as the automaker strives to placate customers dismayed by an emissions-rigging scandal.

VW announced the offer Monday. The car owners have been in limbo since mid-September, when VW admitted the cars are equipped with software that turns on pollution controls during government tests and turns them off while on the road.

VW has yet to unveil a fix for the cars. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says the cars, with 2-liter four-

cylinder diesel engines, emit 10 to 40 times the allowable amount of harmful nitrogen oxide while being driven.

“The problem that most of us suffer from is we're in never-never land so this at least gives us some compensation until they figure it out,” said Bob Rand, a retired judge in Pasadena, California, who says he and his wife have owned at least a dozen new Volkswagens over the years.

The \$500 Visa gift card can be used anywhere, while the \$500 voucher can be used at a VW dealership for things such as an oil change or new set of tires, or even a down payment on a new

car. The offer also includes free roadside assistance for the diesel vehicles for three years.

“We are working tirelessly to develop an approved remedy for affected vehicles,” said Michael Horn, VW's U.S. CEO, said in a statement. “In the meantime we are providing this goodwill package as a first step towards regaining our customers' trust.”

Steve Kalafer, chairman of the Flemington Car and Truck Country dealerships in Flemington, New Jersey, said Volkswagen's offer is a welcome first step after a long silence between the automaker, its customers and its U.S. retailers.

Kalafer said he hasn't heard

yet from any customers about Volkswagen's offer, but he expects they'll want more from the company to address the many issues raised by the emissions scandal.

“They will appreciate the communication, but I imagine that until a real resolution is found that appreciation will be muted,” he said.

Whatever fix VW designs could wind up hurting performance or perhaps fuel mileage, the two main reasons why people buy diesels. More than 200 class-action lawsuits have been filed in the U.S. against VW alleging that the scandal caused the diesel cars to drop in value.

Ruling could expose GM to large verdicts in ignition cases

DETROIT (AP)—A federal bankruptcy judge has ruled that people suing General Motors over faulty ignition switches can seek punitive damages that could cost the company millions of dollars or more.

When General Motors emerged from a 2009 bankruptcy, it became known as “New GM.” The new company essentially was shielded from liabilities of the old company that was left behind.

But Judge Robert Gerber in New York ruled Monday that employees and knowledge transferred from the “Old GM” to the new company. Plaintiffs, he ruled, can seek punitive damages if they can show that “New GM” knew of the faulty switches but covered it up.

The ruling has the potential to open GM to large jury verdicts, because the company has admitted knowing about the faulty switches for a decade or more but failed to recall the cars until February of 2014. Many of the engineers, attorneys and safety investigators who had knowledge of the switches went from the old company to the new one.

But in a statement, GM said the ruling was not a victory for those suing the company. Although the court ruled that New GM could be liable for punitive damages for claims based solely on its conduct, “plaintiffs to date have not established any such independent claims against New GM,” the statement said.

The ignition switches can slip out of the run position and shut off the engine, knocking out the power steering, power brakes and air bags. They are responsible for crashes that killed at least 169 people and injured hundreds of others.

Texas attorney Robert Hilliard, who has several wrongful death and injury lawsuits pending against GM, said the ruling was a complete win for plaintiffs. He said the New GM admitted in an agreement to settle criminal charges with the Justice Department that it knew of the faulty switches for 20 months before notifying federal safety regulators in February of 2014. The company can't contradict the agreement in legal proceedings, so it has no defense, Hilliard argued.

Promise seen for wireless pacemakers placed without surgery

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Researchers are reporting encouraging results for a new generation of pacemakers—miniature, wireless ones that can be implanted through a leg vein without surgery.

In a study of 725 patients, one of these devices, made by Medtronic, was successfully implanted 99 percent of the time, with a low rate of complications compared to traditional pacemakers.

Leaders of the company-sponsored study discussed the research Monday at an American

Heart Association conference in Orlando. Results also were published online by the New England Journal of Medicine.

Two months ago, the journal published a study of a similar device made by St. Jude Medical. Both of these mini pacemakers are already sold in Europe and the companies are seeking Food and Drug Administration approval to sell them in the U.S.

Roughly 200,000 people in the U.S. each year get a pacemaker, a device to regulate their heartbeats. Pacemakers are im-

planted just under the skin in the chest, with wires called leads that go into the heart. The wires can break, wear out or become infected and are the main weakness of these pacing systems.

The mini pacemaker is the size of a large pill and can be placed without surgery, through a tube into a blood vessel in the groin, and attached to the right side of the heart.

“I think it is a breakthrough,” said Dr. Douglas Zipes, an Indiana University School of Medicine heart rhythm expert and past president of the

American College of Cardiology. “Leads have been the Achilles' heel of our implantable devices. To get rid of them will clearly benefit patients.”

That said, this is the first version of these devices, and they don't do everything conventional pacemakers do. Only about one quarter of people who get pacemakers now would be candidates for the new mini ones. Future versions are expected to help more patients, and companies also are designing defibrillators that can be implanted without surgery as well.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,730.48	2,078.58	5,095.30
-179.85	-20.62	-51.82
1.00%	0.98%	1.01%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.4178	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7514
British Pound	0.6618	Indian Rupee	66.3455
Canadian Dollar	1.3273	Indonesian Rupiah	13611
Chinese Yuan	6.357	Japanese Yen	123.255
Euro	0.9307	Malaysian Ringgit	4.3756
		New Zealand Dollar	1.5318
		Philippine Peso	47.2335
		Singapore Dollar	1.4232
		South Korean Won	1156.9
		Swiss Franc	1.0046
		Taiwan Dollar	32.795
		Thailand Baht	35.8705

Nation

Appeals court: State can try 'Angola 3' inmate a 3rd time

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Louisiana can keep “Angola Three” inmate Albert Woodfox in jail and continue its plans to try him a third time in the 1972 killing of a prison guard, a federal appeals court ruled Monday.

The 2-1 decision by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reverses a June order by U.S. District Judge James Brady that ordered Woodfox’s release. And the judge had barred a third trial, saying the state could not try Woodfox fairly more than 40 years after the killing of guard Brent Miller.

The 5th Circuit disagreed.

“The district court abused its discretion by barring retrial and by granting the extraordinary remedy of an unconditional writ,” Judge Carolyn Dineen King wrote for the majority. She was joined by Judge Priscilla Owen.

Judge James L. Dennis, in a dissent, said Brady’s ruling should be upheld. “If ever a case justifiably could be considered to present ‘exceptional circumstances’ barring reprosecution,

this is that case,” Dennis wrote.

Neither the state attorney general’s office, which supports another trial, or Woodfox’s supporters immediately responded to requests for comment.

Woodfox is the last still-incarcerated member of a group that supporters dubbed the “Angola Three” for their decades-long stays in isolation at the Louisiana Penitentiary at Angola and other state prisons.

Woodfox, 68, has consistently maintained his innocence in Miller’s death. He is being held at the West Feliciana Parish Detention Center.

Judge Brady had noted that 43 years have passed since the crime, key witnesses have died and there is no physical evidence linking Woodfox to the stabbing.

Woodfox’s previous convictions in Miller’s death were overturned for reasons including racial bias in selecting a grand jury foreman.

Woodfox was serving time for armed robbery and assault when he was convicted in Miller’s killing. Inmates identified

him as the one who grabbed the guard from behind while others stabbed Miller with a

lawnmower blade and a hand-sharpened prison knife.

But the star witness, a serial

rapist who left death row and was pardoned by the Louisiana governor after his testi-

mony, died before the second trial. His testimony could still be read to jurors.



Immigration activists protest outside the federal appeals court in New Orleans, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015.

AP

ACROSS THE NATION

Egypt antiquities officials scoff at Carson pyramid claims

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian antiquities officials on Monday scoffed at claims by Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson that Egypt’s ancient pyramids were not built as pharaonic tombs but used to store grain. “Does he even deserve a response? He doesn’t,” Antiquities Minister Mamdouh el-Damaty told the Associated Press on the sidelines of a news conference about recent thermal scans of the pyramids that revealed some anomalies that could lead to new discoveries about their construction. Carson’s comments have received little attention in Egypt, where people are accustomed to accepted expert views about the 4,500-year-old structures, but have drawn interest in the United States where the retired neurosurgeon has jumped to the top of the crowded Republican presidential field. Last week, Carson stood by his belief that Egypt’s great pyramids were built by the Biblical figure Joseph to store grain, an assertion dismissed by experts who say its accepted science that they were tombs for pharaohs.

No source found for E. coli; Chipotle could reopen midweek

SEATTLE (AP)—Washington state health officials said Monday they have found no source for the E. coli outbreak related to Chipotle, and the chain’s Pacific Northwest restaurants

could reopen later this week. All the tests of food from Chipotle stores in Washington and Oregon came back negative for E. coli, Washington state epidemiologist Dr. Scott Lindquist said. Chipotle did its own testing, and those results came back negative as well. The Chipotle restaurants in Washington and Oregon will be allowed to reopen after they have met some conditions. They must get rid of and replace all produce, do a deep cleaning of their stores, pass a local health inspection and start a new protocol for cleaning produce.

Investigators: Man threatened to jump from cruise ship

MIAMI (AP)—A cruise passenger who was captured on video clinging to a lifeboat and falling into the ocean had a fight with his partner just moments before and had threatened to jump overboard, authorities said Monday. Bernardo Garcia Teixeira, 31, was presumed dead after he fell into the water early Friday. Police and the cruise line say he intentionally jumped off a balcony. An attorney for Garcia Teixeira’s family said he fell over the railing. Garcia Teixeira and his partner, Erik Elbaz, 34, were on Royal Caribbean Cruises’ Oasis of the Seas when the ship’s security responded to their cabin regarding a domestic disturbance between the two men, the Broward Sheriff’s Office said. Security reported evidence of a fight in the couple’s room.

U. of Missouri president, chancellor leave over race tension

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—The president of the University of Missouri system and the head of its flagship campus resigned Monday with the football team and others on campus in open revolt over what they saw as indifference to racial tensions at the school.

President Tim Wolfe, a former business executive with no previous experience in academic leadership, took “full responsibility for the frustration” students expressed and said their complaints were “clear” and “real.”

For months, black student groups had complained that

Wolfe was unresponsive to racial slurs and other slights on the overwhelmingly white main campus of the state’s four-college system. The complaints came to a head two days ago, when at least 30 black football players announced they would not play until the president left. A graduate student went on a weeklong hunger strike.

Wolfe’s announcement came at the start of what had been expected to be a lengthy closed-door meeting of the school’s governing board.

“This is not the way change comes about,” he said, alluding

to recent protests, in a halting statement that was simultaneously apologetic, clumsy and defiant. “We stopped listening to each other.”

He urged students, faculty and staff to use the resignation “to heal and start talking again to make the changes necessary.”

Hours later, the top administrator of the Columbia campus, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, announced he would step down at the end of the year and shift to leading research efforts.

The school’s undergraduate population is 79 percent white and 8 percent black. The state is about 83 percent white and

nearly 12 percent black. The Columbia campus is about 120 miles west of Ferguson, Missouri, where Michael Brown was killed last year in a shooting that helped spawn the national “Black Lives Matter” movement rebuking police treatment of minorities.

In response to the race complaints, Wolfe had taken little public action and made few statements. As students leveled more grievances this fall, he was increasingly seen as aloof, out of touch and insensitive to their concerns. He soon became the protesters’ main target.

Lawyer: Chinatown racketeering defendant changed his life

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A prime defendant in a San Francisco racketeering case ordered the killing of a rival before taking over his organization in Chinatown and engaging in money laundering and trafficking in guns and drugs, a prosecutor said during his opening statement Monday at the high-profile trial.

The 2006 slaying of Allen Leung was a “cold-blooded, gangland-style hit” ordered by defendant Raymond “Shrimp Boy” Chow, federal prosecutor Waqar Hasib told jurors as he described the killing.

Defense attorney Tony Serra countered in his opening statement that Chow did

not participate in any killings or other criminal activity detailed in the investigation that led to the conviction of former state Sen. Leland Yee on a racketeering charge.

Chow pleaded guilty to racketeering in 2000 amid accusations that included heroin and cocaine trafficking, attempted murder and robbery, according to an FBI affidavit in Chow’s current case.

But Serra said Chow, who will testify in his own defense, reformed and was looking forward to a lucrative book deal about his life.

“My client is not, and they will never show he is anything analogous to a godfather,”

Serra said.

Chow was the focus of a lengthy investigation that included an FBI agent posing as a member of the mafia who plied his targets in Chinatown—one of San Francisco’s most popular tourist attractions—with fancy meals, liquor and cash. More than two dozen people were indicted last year as part of the probe.

Hasib called Chow the sun at the center of a criminal universe and accused him of repeatedly accepting money from the undercover FBI agent.

Serra said the FBI agent instigated the crimes for which people were later arrested. He said his client was broke after

leaving prison, and the agent forced money on him, often when Chow was drunk.

Hasib said a co-defendant will testify that Chow ordered the killing of Leung, who was then head of a fraternal organization known as the Ghee Kung Tong, the prosecutor said.

Federal investigators say Chow took over the Ghee Kung Tong after having Leung killed.

“This case is about this group of people engaging in this pattern of criminal activity,” Hasib said. “But most importantly, this case is about the person who is at the center of that, around whom all of that criminal activity revolved, around whom all those people revolved.”

Asia

Myanmar opposition: Poll panel delaying results deliberately

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party, which appears headed for a massive election victory, accused the government election panel Tuesday of intentionally delaying results, saying it wants to "maybe play a trick."

The surprising accusation by the National League for Democracy adds a worrying twist to what has so far been an amicable election, where the ruling party appeared to be taking its expected loss gracefully.

"The Union Election Commission has been delaying intentionally because maybe they want to play a trick or something," NLD spokesman Win Htten told reporters at Suu Kyi's house after a party meeting. "It doesn't make sense that they are releasing the results piece by piece. It shouldn't be like that," he said.

"They are trying to be crooked," he added.

The election commission, which has released results for only about 50 seats in the 664-member Parliament, did not immediately respond to the accusation. The NLD has claimed victory in 154 of the



164 seats in four of the country's 14 states. In addition, the commission announced that the NLD had won 11 of 15 seats in four other regional parliaments.

The accusation raises concern about the intentions of the rul-

ing party, which is beholden to the military that had ruled the country with an iron-grip from 1962 until 2011. Since then, the country has been governed by the Union Solidarity Development Party, made up former

junta members led by President Thein Sein. A former general, Thein Sein has been praised for beginning political and economic reforms to end Myanmar's isolation and jump-start its moribund economy.

It is also disconcerting because in 1990 elections, which the NLD won overwhelmingly, the junta that refused to recognize the results.

Still, observers believe that the military has little to gain by interfering again because as part of a reforms program to allow democracy gradually, it has already secured its position with constitutionally guaranteed

AP
Newspapers displaying election news are sold on the street in Yangon, Myanmar, Monday, Nov. 9, 2015.

powers.

For example, no matter who forms the government, the military gets to keep control of the ministries of defense, interior and border security. It controls large parts of the national economy. Also, the military will be able to legally block constitutional amendments because 25 percent of the seats in Parliament are reserved for the military, and amendments will require more than a 75 percent vote.

The NLD is widely expected to finish with the most seats in Parliament. A two-thirds majority would give it control over the executive posts under Myanmar's complicated parliamentary-presidency system.

The military and the largest parties in the upper house and the lower house will each nominate a candidate for president. After Jan. 31, all 664 legislators will cast ballots and the top vote-getter will become president, while the other two will be vice presidents. A massive majority in Parliament would allow the NLD to take the presidency and one of the vice president slots.

China's top diplomat visits Manila amid sea feud

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with President Benigno Aquino III and his Philippine counterpart Tuesday ahead of Pacific Rim leaders' summit next week. It was the first visit to Manila by a top Chinese official in recent years amid territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Wang met for about an hour with Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario. He waved but ignored questions shouted at him by journalists as he stepped out of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Del Rosario said the meeting was "good" but

hurried to the presidential palace, where Wang met Aquino. Before their meeting, the two ministers posed for pictures and Wang signed a guest book. Del Rosario also hosted a lunch for Wang after the meeting with Aquino. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Monday that the two sides will prepare for President Xi Jinping's visit during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit and discuss how to improve bilateral ties.

Aquino said that he welcomed Xi's decision to join the APEC summit and promised

"the warmth of Filipino hospitality," according to presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma.

The two foreign ministers last met in Beijing in 2013 at the sidelines of Southeast Asian foreign ministers' meeting with their Chinese counterpart, but it is Wang's first visit to Philippine capital as a foreign minister.

"The bilateral relationship is beset by difficulties due to reasons known to all," Hong said, adding that China "attaches importance to its relationship with the Philippines and stays committed to properly resolving relevant issues through consulta-

tions and negotiations."

On Saturday in Singapore, Xi promised to safeguard freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, where tensions have flared over overlapping claims and the U.S. Navy's moves to challenge Beijing's island-building.

China criticized last week's patrol of the USS Lassen, a guided-missile destroyer, within the 12-nautical-mile (22-kilometer) territorial limit of Subi Reef, one of the South China Sea features that have been claimed, expanded and reinforced by China over objections of other claimants, particularly the Philippines.

Popular noodles are back on shelves in India after lead scare

NEW DELHI (AP)—Maggi noodles are back on shelves in India five months after the popular snack was found to contain lead above permissible limits.

The Indian unit of Swiss food company Nestle said Monday that samples of newly made Maggi instant noodles had been cleared for consumption by three food-testing laboratories in India.

"The rollout has begun today. It has been a challenging period for the Nestle Organization, and therefore, there is a feeling of satisfaction at bringing back Maggi noodles to the market," Nestle India said in a statement.

Maggi has been reintroduced in 100 cities and towns across India and will be made available soon in more states, said Nestle India Chairman and Managing Director Suresh Narayanan. Maggi noodles will not be available in eight states that had banned their sale. The company said it was in talks with local governments to lift the ban.

In June, India's Health Ministry ordered the removal of Maggi noodles from stores after tests by several states found high levels of lead. This was after the country's food safety regulator found that the noodles were

"unsafe and hazardous" for consumption due to the presence of lead beyond permissible limits.

Nestle India maintained the noodles were safe to eat and challenged the accuracy of the tests. The ban was overturned in the Bombay High Court in August. But the company had to destroy 400 million packets of Maggi products, which cost it more than \$67 million.

Narayanan said the company was not immediately considering taking legal action against the food regulator.

"At the moment, we are very clear that we will be focusing on building the brand," he told reporters.

Maggi noodles are a hugely popular snack among school and college students and young working people in India.

The company introduced the quick-cooking noodles to India in the early 1980s, and they can be found in the remotest villages.

The June tests also detected the chemical flavor enhancer monosodium glutamate, or MSG, which is not mentioned in the product's list of ingredients. Nestle said it did not add the flavor enhancer to the noodles.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Fuel shortage forces Nepal domestic flights to be canceled

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Airlines in Nepal have been forced to cancel more than half of their domestic flights because of an ongoing fuel shortage, an official said Monday. More than 70 percent of domestic flights were canceled Sunday and about half were canceled Monday, said Utsav Raj Kharel, the manager of Kathmandu's airport. International flights were operating on a normal schedule because they are required to fill their tanks before flying to Nepal. Passengers were stranded by the canceled flights in Kathmandu, the capital, and other cities. About 2,000 passengers

a day normally fly in and out of Kathmandu's airport on domestic routes.

Detained famous Thai fortuneteller dies in military prison

BANGKOK (AP)—A prominent Thai fortuneteller accused of insulting the monarchy has died in custody, authorities said Monday, becoming the second person in connection with the high-profile case to die behind bars. The fortuneteller, Suriyan Sujaritpalawong, known by the name "Mor Yong," died of a blood infection Saturday at the military prison where he had been detained since mid-October, the Justice Ministry said. Mor Yong was known as a celebrity fortuneteller popular

with officialdom and the Thai elite, and his death sparked immediate skepticism on social media about why authorities waited two days to reveal his death. The military regime that ousted an elected civilian government last year has declared that defense of the monarchy is its priority, and it has vigorously pursued prosecutions under the law, trying such cases in military courts. Lèse majesté, or insulting the monarchy, is punishable by three to 15 years in prison.

Afghan president condemns slayings of minority Shiites

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani on Monday condemned the gruesome slayings of seven

members of an ethnic Shiite minority abducted in a southeastern province where rival Taliban factions are fighting one another. The headless bodies of four men, two women and a child—all members of the Hazara minority—were found late on Saturday in the Arghandab district of Zabul province, which borders Pakistan. Zabul provincial governor Mohammad Anwar Ishaqzai has blamed the Islamic State group for the abductions and the killings. He said the victims had been kidnapped in neighboring Ghazni province over the past six months. Ghani's office said he was "profoundly saddened" by the killings and would convene a security meeting Tuesday on the case.

World

In Egypt, angry talk of Western conspiracy over plane crash

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian media have reacted with fury as Britain and the United States increasingly point to a bomb as the cause of the Oct. 31 Russian plane crash in Sinai, and many have hammered home to the public here the message that the country is facing a Western conspiracy to scare off tourists and destroy the economy.

The warnings of a plot have been widely promoted by opinion-makers in print, online, and on TV, sometimes hinting and sometimes saying flat-out that the West has restricted flights to Egypt not purely out of safety concerns for its citizens but because it wants to undermine the country or prevent President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi from making Egypt too strong.

"The people defy the conspiracy—Egypt will not cave in to pressures," the state-owned Al-Gomhuria newspaper proclaimed in a front-page headline this week. "Egypt stands up to 'the West's terrorism,'" an independent daily, El-Watan, headlined.



In this Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015, file photo, tourists enjoy the Red Sea in Naama Bay, Sharm el-Sheikh, south Sinai, Egypt.

AP

Conspiracy theories often run rampant in the Middle East for a variety of reasons - poor education, suspicion of others, a lack of government transparency, limitations on speech, and the historical fact that powers inside and outside the region do often work behind the scenes to sway events and conflicts. Often, the theories are politically fueled.

Taha said the rhetoric is the "standard fallback" for the state. Private citizens, she said, likely wouldn't have come up with the conspiracy theories on their own, "but they're very likely to adopt what state media is saying."

Egypt's media often point to "foreign hands" amid crises. During the 2011 uprising that eventually toppled Hosni Mubarak, state papers accused foreigners of fomenting protests. Over the past two years, commentators have often accused the U.S. of supporting the Brotherhood, which has been declared a terrorist organization, and trying to impose it on Egypt, in response to Western criticism of Morsi's ouster by the military and the subsequent crackdown on Islamists. They also complain that the West is not helping Egypt enough in its fight against terrorism, including the Islamic State's branch in Sinai, which claimed to have downed the plane.

WORLD BRIEFS

2 Americans among 5 killed in rare Jordan police shooting

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—A Jordanian police captain opened fire Monday on instructors at an international police training center in Jordan's capital, killing at least five people, including two Americans, before being shot dead by security forces. It was not clear if there was a political motive to the shooting spree, which also wounded six people, including two Americans. But concern has swirled in staunchly pro-Western Jordan over possible revenge attacks by Islamic militants since the country assumed a high-level role in the U.S.-led military campaign against the Islamic State extremist group, which controls large areas of neighboring Syria and Iraq. The unprecedented assault inside a Jordanian security compound also raised questions about the kingdom's image as an island of relative stability in a turbulent region.

Israel lacks evidence against extremists in arson attack

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel is still lacking evidence to charge those responsible for a deadly arson attack on a Palestinian family this summer, Israeli media reported the country's defense minister as saying Monday, in a case that Palestinians say helped fuel the past weeks of bloodshed. In July, assailants, believed to be Jewish extremists, lobbed a firebomb into the Dawabsheh family's home in the West Bank village of Duma, where four family members

were asleep. Ali Dawabsheh, a toddler, was burned to death, while his mother and father later died of their wounds. His 4-year-old brother Ahmad is being treated in an Israeli hospital. Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said a "group of Jewish fanatics" who want to install a "religious kingdom" based on biblical law were behind the attack. Yaalon's remarks to military correspondents were reported by Israel's Walla news site.

Russia slammed in doping report, faces possible Olympic ban

GENEVA (AP)—Russia's status as a sports superpower and its participation in track and field events at next year's Olympics came under threat Monday after a report accused the Russians of widespread, state-supported doping reminiscent of the darkest days of cheating by the former East Germany. The findings by a commission set up by the World Anti-Doping Agency were far more damaging than expected. It means that two of the world's most popular sports—soccer and track and field—are now mired in scandals that could destroy their reputations. The WADA investigation's findings that Russian government officials must have known about doping and cover-ups, with even its intelligence service, the FSB, allegedly involved, threatened to severely tarnish President Vladimir Putin's use of sports to improve his country's global standing. Russia hosted the last Winter Olympics in Sochi in 2014 and will hold the next World Cup in 2018.

The rhetoric reflects in part the deep reluctance in the press to level serious criticism or suggestion of shortcomings by el-Sissi's government.

Government and independent media alike have constantly lionized el-Sissi and depicted him as Egypt's savior ever since—as

head of the military—he led the army's 2013 ouster of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi after massive protests against Morsi and the power of his Muslim Brotherhood. Since el-Sissi's election as president the following year, most media have continued to laud him as

working to bring stability.

"Denial on behalf of the state that there is a crisis and then trying to point to some kind of third party is very normal" in Egypt, Hebatalla Taha, an Egypt-focused analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, told The Associated Press.

Despite genocide warnings, Burundi says it's 'not in flames'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—"Burundi is not in flames," its foreign minister said Monday, dismissing international concerns that his country is at risk of a Rwanda-like genocide. But reports of killings by police continued, and France circulated a U.N. Security Council draft resolution threatening sanctions.

Foreign Minister Alain Aime Nyamitwe addressed the council as top U.N. officials and human rights groups urged action against what witnesses call a deadly government crackdown on opposition members.

Statements last week by officials echoing language used in the 1994 Rwanda genocide have raised alarms at the U.N. Like neighboring Rwanda, Burundi has a history of tensions between its Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups.

"All possible influence must be brought to bear to halt what may be an imminent catastrophe," said U.N. human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. At least 240 people have been killed since protests began in April against President Pierre Nkurunziza's ultimately successful quest

for a third term, Zeid said, "with bodies dumped on the streets on an almost nightly basis."

A witness said one man was killed Monday in what Burundi's government called an ongoing disarmament operation in the capital, Bujumbura. The witness, who resides in the Musaga neighborhood, said police fired at three young men who started to flee when they saw police entering the area. The witness spoke on condition of anonymity because of safety concerns.

Burundian security forces are conducting door-to-door search-

es in volatile neighborhoods seen as opposition strongholds.

Nkurunziza last week urged the police to use all means necessary to collect illegal weapons and gave civilians a week to turn in any unlicensed weapons in their possession. That deadline expired Sunday.

France's draft Security Council resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, calls on Burundi's government to immediately convene a national dialogue "to find a consensual and nationally owned solution to the current crisis."

Catalan lawmakers approve plan for secession from Spain

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—The regional parliament of Catalonia launched a plan Monday to set up a road map for independence from Spain by 2017, defying warnings from the central government in Madrid that it is violating the nation's constitution.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy pledged to halt the effort.

The chamber, based in the northeastern city of Barcelona, passed the secession resolution in a 72-63 vote.

The proposal was made by pro-secession lawmakers from the "Together for Yes" alliance

and the extreme left-wing Popular Unity Candidacy (CUP). The groups together obtained a parliamentary majority in regional elections in September that they presented as a stand-in plebiscite on independence after the central government in Madrid refused to allow an official referendum.

Spain's government reacted swiftly Monday. In a nationally televised address, Rajoy said his government will appeal the decision at the Constitutional Court, which has in the past blocked moves toward independence.

"Catalonia is not going anywhere. Nothing is going to break," Rajoy said.

He added he would meet with the leader of the main opposition Socialist Party, Pedro Sanchez, to forge a common front against the separatists.

The resolution passed by the Catalan parliament in its first postelection session declared "the start of a process toward the creation of an independent Catalan state in the form of a republic" and a "process of democratic disconnection not subject to the decisions by the institutions of the Spanish state."

While separatist lawmakers celebrated the result in the chamber, opponents held up Spanish and Catalan flags.

"There is a growing cry for Catalonia to not merely be a country, but to be a state, with everything that means," said Raul Romeva, head of the "Together for Yes" alliance.

Catalan branches of Spain's ruling conservative Popular Party and the Socialist and the Citizens opposition parties had filed appeals to halt the vote, but Spain's Constitutional Court ruled last Thursday that it could proceed.

"You want to divide a country by raising a frontier within the European Union," Citizens regional leader Ines Arrimadas told separatist lawmakers.

Focus

After vet felled by PTSD, service dog Honor aids family now

By ALLEN G. BREED
AP NATIONAL WRITER

CLYDE, N.C. (AP)—Part of the Labrador retriever's training was to sense when the demons of war had invaded Wade Baker's dreams.

"I was having a nightmare, a flashback," Baker, a Gulf War veteran, once told an interviewer. "And I woke up with Honor standing on my chest, licking my face."

He tried to push his service dog away, but Honor persisted.

"He was stopping the nightmare for me," Baker said.

And so, this summer when he saw his master lying in the flag-draped casket, Honor pushed through the clutch of weeping family members, reared up, placed his paws on the edge and tried to climb in. Unable to comfort Baker, the lanky black dog in the camouflage-patterned vest curled up underneath.

For Baker, the long nightmare was finally over. But Honor was still on duty.

Baker's quarter-century battle with post-traumatic stress disorder ended on Aug. 19 at a little church in the western North Carolina mountains. Police responding to an alleged hostage situation there did not know it at the time, but it was Baker who'd made the 911 call.

He was both gunman and hostage, and, as he told a friend who was trying desperately to make him surrender, it was time for him to be "put down." When he fired at the officers, they returned fire, striking him nine times.

Plagued by memories and delusions, Baker took years to even admit that he had a problem. Even after his wife convinced him to get treatment, he never stopped looking for a cure—that "magic pill" that would allow him to go back to work, back to normal.

For a while, he thought Honor was it. In the end, even this bundle of unconditional love wasn't enough for him.

Still, Honor was never just Wade Baker's dog - and now there would be others in need of healing.

■■■
Baker, a State Center, Iowa, native, enlisted in the Army on Nov. 21, 1988 - nine days after his 18th birthday. Stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, with his new wife Diane, Baker learned that his unit would be deployed for Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait from Iraq's Saddam Hussein. Part of the 1st Infantry Division, they would be "the tip of the spear."

Baker, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle driver, made it through "the 100-hour war" with barely a scratch. But the invisible injuries inside were massive.

A few days after his return to Fort Riley, Diane called his sister, Laura Thomas, to say that he

was having nightmares. He said a dead man was chasing after him, trying to talk to him.

Baker told his sister that, while in the desert, he'd stumbled across an Iraqi soldier and shot him when he reached into his uniform. The man, he later realized, was reaching for photos of his children.

Then there were the burial details.

"The dogs would have dug them up overnight," he told her. "He talked about fighting over an arm with a dog one time."

The men began shooting the animals, Baker said.

When Thomas told her brother that he needed professional help, he said that wasn't an option.

He planned to make the Army a career and feared they would "bounce me out of the military for being a nut job."

Besides, seeking help was a sign of weakness, he thought. Suffering in silence was the "manly" thing to do—even if that meant "drinking it away" or "drugging it away."

Somehow, he managed to keep it all hidden. He picked up three good conduct medals and was promoted to sergeant. During the mid-1990s, Baker served back-to-back tours in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia.

Then things began to unravel. He attacked a higher-ranking non-commissioned officer and received a letter of reprimand for an incident involving his company commander.

"The anger, the frustration," he said. "I didn't know how to control it."

In November 1998, he "managed to get out with an honorable discharge."

■■■
Moving back to Iowa, Baker got a job as a corrections officer with the Marshall County Sheriff's Department. But he was becoming more distant from Diane and their two girls.

He fell in love with a jail co-worker, Michelle, who was also married and had two sons of her own. They divorced their spouses and married, eventually having two sets of twins of their own.

By 2006, Baker had lost his jail job and was working for a pest-control company. Then in October of that year, fire struck, forcing them to grab the children and flee into the night.

"He said he felt like he was back in war," Michelle Baker said. "He went downhill really fast after that."

Baker was having false memories—a dog they never owned, a vacation they never took. And worse. He rushed in one day, ecstatic, after seeing their neighbor out doing yard work. He was convinced that he'd killed the man.

Shortly after the fire, Baker lost the exterminator job. He went to work servicing septic tanks.



In this Sept. 8, 2015 photo, Jack Baker hugs his father's PTSD service dog, Honor, at his home in Clyde, N.C. "He's the last connection that the boys have with their father," says Nicole Shumate, executive director of Paws & Effect. "And I'm sure if we gave the dog the choice, he'd prefer not to be uprooted."

Finally, Baker reached out to the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2007, but was told it would be several months before he could be seen. He began to see suicide as the only way out.

"You're playing a game of chess," he said. "And you realize you're two moves away from checkmate."

After a high-speed chase with police, Baker landed in a psychiatric unit. A doctor got him into the Iowa City VA.

"The Nightmares + Flashbacks are more severe in intensity + Frequency," he wrote in a note from that period. "I see more clearly and I understand what they want. They need me to kill myself to make it rite."

This is just the beginning its gonna get worse they want to torture me forever. I am afraid to live or die."

Baker was finally diagnosed with PTSD. But it would be 2009 before the VA would declare him 100 percent disabled.

Meanwhile, he entered an inpatient program at the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota. He left early, but while there wrote a poem in which he channeled the feelings of soldiers from past wars.

"They convinced us to Fight For honor + glory

But when they were done with us, the same old story

'Here are trinkets + medals— Oh wow a parade!

Now Just Forget all the promises made"

■■■
On Aug. 23, 2010, at a kennel in Indianola, Iowa, a chocolate Labrador retriever named Bittersweet Formaro whelped a lit-

ter of six—four males and two females. Nicole Shumate took the whole bunch, plus one more from another litter.

As executive director of Paws & Effect, Shumate has spent nearly a decade training dogs for service with disabled children and combat veterans. She dubbed this latest group the "military litter"—Anthem, Hero, Justice, Liberty, Merit and Valor.

And, of course, Honor.

Honor had a bit more drive than his siblings. In addition to the standard obedience training, Shumate enrolled him in agility classes to burn off some of that excess energy.

"Honor was always a clown," she says.

Honor was about halfway through his training when the Bakers' dog was hit by a car and killed. About that same time, Shumate was giving a talk to a local kennel club, and Thomas convinced Wade and Michelle to go.

By the time it was over, they were all in tears.

Catching Shumate outside, Thomas said, "Please help my brother."

When Baker met Honor at Paws & Effects' Des Moines office, the dog was aloof and Baker was stuttering. But Shumate was confident the two would complement each other.

In March 2012, Baker and about a half dozen other veterans reported for training at a military base outside Des Moines. After two days, Baker was agitated and ready to quit.

Then the men and dogs paired up for real-world training. During a mall outing, Baker became anxious. Hon-

or began rubbing against his legs, then climbed up into his lap and let out a big yawn—a calming trick he'd learned.

"And that's when I realized: 'Oh. You're training ME,'" Baker said.

Honor "graduated" along with his siblings. Baker said he'd already slept more in the two weeks of training than he had in years.

■■■
The VA doesn't pay to provide service dogs for PTSD sufferers. However, the agency is in the midst of a three-year study of the animals' potential benefits to veterans—or harms, such as possibly distancing themselves from human contact.

While many veterans report a great calming and comforting effect from having a service dog, says Dr. Chris Crowe Sr., a VA clinical psychologist, "there's a real difference between feeling better and treating these disorders that can derail a person's life."

Michelle Baker didn't need a study to know that Honor was a godsend. The change was immediate—and profound.

Before Honor, Baker would grow anxious if he went to one of the boys' football games. He'd be a wreck for a week afterward.

"It made him an active member in our family again," she said.

And it wasn't just Wade. Before Honor, Michelle Baker felt as if they were all "drowning in an ocean."

Honor, she said, "was a life preserver who swam to us."

In a 2012 interview on Iowa Public Radio's "River to River" program, Baker said Honor was pure love - unconditional and unquestioning.

"He doesn't care why I'm agitated," he said. "He's like, 'Hey. Something's not right. Let's fix it.'"

Yet even though Baker loved Honor—whom he affectionately called "Tiger" or "Knucklehead"—he couldn't shake the conviction that his dependence on this dog was proof of his own weakness. Honor's vest—embroidered with the words "DO NOT PET"—was like "a bullseye on my back," he said. He declared that Honor was just the "next step" in his recovery.

"I've always been looking for that magic pill," he confessed.

"I want to wake up tomorrow and I want to be normal."

A year after graduation, Baker returned to the training camp to mentor the latest cadre of dog recipients. He sat down with a videographer from Paws & Effect to talk about how Honor had changed his life.

"It's getting better," he said. "And it's not the meds. It's not the therapy. It's just everyday living, with him."

■■■
Not long after Baker filmed that

interview, however, things got bad again.

A buddy who'd served with him in the Balkans was living near Asheville, North Carolina. Assuring Baker that the VA hospital there was great, he opened his home to his troubled friend and, in December 2013, Baker made the move.

By the following May, things were going well enough that Michelle and the boys decided to follow.

Once again, Baker left the inpatient treatment—saying his family needed him at home. Crowe, the VA psychologist, says the dropout rate for veterans in psychotherapy is 20 percent.

Continuing treatment in one-on-one sessions, he was asked to write a "trauma statement."

In the six-page handwritten document, Baker told a new story—about a friend who was killed when his vehicle rolled over a mine during the Gulf War's final push.

"I was covered in blood, all over my face hands neck," he wrote of his futile efforts to resuscitate the man. He was haunted by a mean joke he'd made moments before.

"I was only kidding + giving him a hard time," he wrote, "but its the last thing I ever said to him."

The process left Baker agitated and angry. Michelle became so concerned for the boys' safety and her own that they moved out this past July—making sure to take all the guns.

She and the kids found a small house, overlooking a pasture with lowing cows. Wade and Honor moved into a single-wide trailer about a mile away.

They still saw or talked to each other every day.

■■■
August 19 was the boys' first day of school. That afternoon, Michelle picked Jack and Kobi up, and went to Wade's to get some of their things.

As soon as he came to the door, she could tell something was wrong.

"It's a bad day," he told her.

As Honor tailed the boys around the trailer, Baker told his wife that he hadn't slept in days. He began arguing with her, asking why they couldn't all be together.

When she and the boys went to meet the older twins' bus, Baker continued his argument by text. Michelle decided not to engage him.

At 3 p.m., he sent a final note.

"I love you," he wrote. "Al-ways will. Tell the boys I am sorry and that I was weak. I will always be watching them, every touch-down every test every night."

Michelle called the VA's crisis hotline.

At 3:08, Baker posted a note on his Facebook page—the one he'd

See PTSD on Next Page

Good Housekeeping

Projects for your house's difficult teen years

By MICHELE DAWSON
ANGIE'S LIST

When it comes to home improvement projects on your house that's coming of age, there's no denying that your roof, windows and air conditioning and heating units might be getting moody, temperamental or give you the silent treatment altogether.

As your home ages, it will require more upkeep and improvements. It's especially important to stay on top of some of the more potentially troublesome elements of your home—ones that can cause you massive headaches and put a huge dent in your wallet.

Many changes both small and large can increase energy efficiency and cut down on electricity or gas bills, as well as increase home value if and when you plan to sell your house.

If your home is in the double-digits, some of the home improvement projects on your to-do list will include:

Roof repairs, shingles and gutters

While staying on top of roof maintenance should take place regardless of the age of your home, it becomes even more important in the teen years. The



SUMMER GALYAN/ANGIE'S LIST/TNS

As your house approaches 20 years old, consider steps to improve window efficiency.

National Roofing Contractors Association says you should examine the condition of the shingles. Any sign of blistering, buckling or curling means it's time to replace them. You should also check the chimneys and pipes for wear or anything that seems to be coming apart. Also, check your gutters for any shingle granules. If you're finding healthy amounts in the gutter, that means they're not on the shingles and your roof is missing out on ultraviolet ray protection. If you find any of these problems, consider a roof repair

by a licensed roofing contractor. Gutter cleaning plays an important role in protecting your gutters, downspouts and foundation. Keep a clean gutter by regularly hiring a gutter cleaning company, and consider adding gutter guards to further protect them.

Window replacement and repair

As your windows age, they're bound to lose the battle with draftiness or become stubborn and stick to their frames, and you'll likely see your energy bill increase. Checking your

windows for drafts and caulking is an easy solution that can be completed in a weekend and with minimal expense. Or you might consider new replacement windows with high energy efficiency. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says you'll save 7 to 15 percent on your energy bill, and your home's temperature will be consistent. No more drafts if you're sitting by the window or rooms that feel too hot in the summer. A vinyl window overhaul can cost you upwards of \$10,000 to \$15,000. But the good news is that you'll

recover about 78 percent of that when you sell your home, according to Hanley Wood's 2014 Cost vs. Value Report.

Air conditioning and heating efficiency

Life expectancy in HVAC units is typically 10-15 years. Units produced today are much more energy-efficient than the models just a decade ago. If you're constantly calling an HVAC contractor, your unit is noisy, it's humid inside your house, your energy bills are rising, or your unit's SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) is less than 13, then it's time to consider replacing your heating and cooling unit with a model that boasts higher energy efficiency. A licensed HVAC contractor can perform a load calculation that gets the most efficient model for your money.

Landscaping improvements and tree service

When your house was new, the trees and landscape were so young and nonthreatening. As the years pass, the trees have matured and provide shade and beautiful aesthetics. But your gutters are getting clogged with leaves and you start to notice bumps and bulges in the path of tree roots, heading straight to your block patio. You'll need to start cleaning those gutters more frequently. And if your tree

roots are presenting problems, you can consider installing a barrier to the roots or dig and place pack material to discourage the roots.

A tree service professional can help ensure the best health for your trees by careful pruning and maintenance.

Painting and home decor

An easy way to help your home decor retain a youthful appearance is by livening it up with a new paint job. For both the interior and exterior, a fresh coat of paint can bring a crisp, clean, bold appearance. As walls get dingy and dirty, painting a room can do wonders. And introducing new colors can make a room or exterior of your house feel new again.

Staying in tune with your house during its tumultuous teen years is especially important if you plan on selling in the near future. Buyers tend to navigate toward homes that have been properly maintained and sport newer, more energy-efficient features. And exterior work such as regular tree service and fresh paint can increase curb appeal for a better home value.

Michele Dawson is a reporter at Angie's List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

COMFORT FOOD

Classic Bread Stuffing

1/2 cup butter or margarine (1 stick)	1 teaspoon dried thyme
5 celery stalks, finely chopped	3/4 teaspoon salt
1 medium onion, finely chopped	1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 loaves (16 ounces each) sliced firm white bread; cut into 3/4-inch cubes	1/2 teaspoon dried sage
1 can (14 1/2 ounces) chicken broth	
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley	

1. In 5-quart Dutch oven, melt butter over medium heat. Add celery and onion, and cook, stirring occasion-

ally, about 15 minutes, until tender.

2. Remove Dutch oven from heat. Add bread cubes, broth, parsley, thyme, salt, pepper and sage; toss to combine well. Use to stuff 12- to 16-pound turkey, or serve in baking dish alongside poultry or ham: Spoon stuffing into greased 13-by-9-inch baking dish; cover with foil and bake in preheated 325 F oven about 45 minutes until heated through. Makes about 10 cups stuffing.

** Each 1/2 cup: About 170 calories, 4g protein, 24g carbohydrate, 6g total fat (3g saturated), 1g fiber, 13mg cholesterol, 475mg sodium. For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/. (Hearst Communications, Inc.)*

PTSD

From Page 18

launched in June with a picture of Honor as his profile photo.

"Well I had a good run but it's time," he wrote. "I love you all."

Armed with a .20-gauge shotgun, Baker had driven a couple of miles into the mountains above Clyde to the Maple Grove Baptist Church. He kicked in the front door and called 911.

"There's somebody here with a gun," he told the dispatcher in an oddly calm voice. "They're shooting up everything."

"Do you know who it is or anything like that?" the dispatcher asked.

"Ah, some crazy son of a bitch," Baker said, irritated. "I think he's shot four people already."

The line went dead.

Danny Lynn Cagle, the boys' football coach, had spotted Baker's Facebook post and immediately phoned his friend. Baker

kept hanging up, and the coach kept calling back.

He told Baker his sons needed him. Baker said he was holding them back.

"It's time for me to be put down," he said.

Officers from four agencies converged on the church. One radioed that he'd been in touch with the crisis hotline, and that Baker had vowed "he would die by law enforcement. Today."

Baker complained to Cagle that the police were refusing to shoot him.

"You're about to hear fireworks, buddy," he said. "Tell the boys I love 'em."

His shotgun raised, the veteran walked toward the officers. Cagle heard a bang, then a burst of gunfire.

■■■

Officers found Honor at Baker's trailer—unharmd.

Michelle believes Baker left him behind because he didn't want him to get hurt—or to try to stop his master.

The faithful dog attended the memorial service, where Susanah Smith, Michelle's cousin, photographed the bittersweet moment when he curled up beneath the casket. "It was almost as if Honor was saying 'this is my last watch,'" she wrote in an email, "and stayed there to protect Wade."

And Honor was there at the funeral, held in the chapel overlooking the Western North Carolina Veterans Cemetery. The rifle salute sent him leaping into one of the boys' laps.

Typically, if a recipient dies and the service dog is still young enough, the animal is placed with another veteran or child. But taking Honor from the Baker boys was never an option, Shumate said.

"He's the last connection that the boys have with their father," she said. "And I'm sure if we gave the dog the choice, he'd prefer not to be uprooted."

Michelle Baker said they already owed him more than they

could ever repay.

"Honor gave the boys their dad for more years," she said, tears rolling down her cheeks. "And that's an amazing gift."

The camouflage vest has been retired to a hook by the back door. These days, Honor is more pet than service dog, but he still has special powers.

If one of the boys becomes emotional, Michelle said, Honor will rear up and gently press his front paws into his chest. "And they just melt and embrace him."

She watched on a recent afternoon as the older twins, Mason and Nick, took turns calling the dog, each trying to prove he's Honor's new favorite.

She kept some of her husband's ashes. He had asked that they be scattered at favorite waterfalls and other spots they'd visited. When the boys are ready, she plans to take them to fulfill his last wishes.

And when they do, it will be with Honor.

YOUR PLACE

Steps to avoid window condensation

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Q: We had new windows installed several years ago. Some mornings, when there is a lot of condensation, you can see where the stickers were on all the windows. How can I stop this condensation from happening?

A: Let me refer to a column that I wrote back in 2011, I believe, in which I interviewed Christopher Burk, technical product manager at Simonton Windows in Columbus, Ohio.

"While condensation may collect on the interior or exterior of energy-efficient windows, the units are really doing their job by helping serve as a barrier in the home," Burk said.

Windows themselves don't cause condensation. They just prevent the moisture in the house from escaping to the outside.

"If the inside glass surface on double- or triple-glazed windows shows excessive moisture, you can be reasonably sure that the moisture is also collecting on your walls and ceilings," Burk said.

"This means you should take steps to reduce the hu-

midity level in your home by using exhaust fans and dehumidifiers."

A lot of water vapor is created by any home's inhabitants. A family of four can add a half-pint of water vapor every hour to a home just through normal breathing and perspiration.

And if you take a five-minute shower, you produce another half-pint of water vapor.

Even the simple act of cooking dinner on a gas stove can produce 2 pints of water vapor.

It's a part of our lives and the places in which we live them.

To help control the amount of condensation in the home, the experts at Simonton Windows recommended taking the following steps:

Use kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans.

If you have a humidifier, set it to the correct outside temperature.

If your home is overly humid or if you have a damp basement, use dehumidifiers.

Properly vent your clothes dryers, gas appliances and stoves.

Open windows in the bathrooms.

Open your curtains and blinds to allow more air circulation around your windows.

Life & Style

Caitlyn Jenner, Reese Witherspoon honored at Glamour Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Caitlyn Jenner, one of the most talked about women in the world, accepted a Glamour woman of the year award on Monday, telling an admiring crowd that she believes she was put on Earth to tell her story and make a difference in the world.

Jenner, one of a group of honorees that included actress Reese Witherspoon, dancer Misty Copeland and designer Victoria Beckham, also said that, in case anyone was wondering, “I’m very happy to be living on the other side.”

She said that before she had come out as a woman, she stayed home most of the time. “Now,” she said to cheers, “I actually like going out, and being myself.”

Jenner described her journey to becoming a woman, and spoke of how she sat down with her children to discuss her plans to go public. She said she had realized that perhaps “this is why God put me on this earth, to tell my story ... and make a difference in the world.”

Jenner is not the first transgender woman to be a Glamour Woman of the Year; last year, actress Laverne Cox was honored. Still, Jenner’s inclusion sparked some backlash on social media. “We prefer to focus on the positive,” Jenner said through a spokesman ahead of the announcement.

Cindi Leive, Glamour’s edi-

tor-in-chief, told The Associated Press that criticism of Jenner’s inclusion “certainly gives you an appreciation for the hostility to the trans community that still exists out there.”

The annual ceremony at

Carnegie Hall in Manhattan mixes high-wattage celebrities with lesser known names, and this year, the award winners include five women touched by the South Carolina church massacre—Alana Simmons,

Nadine Collier, Bethane Middleton-Brown, Felicia Sanders and Polly Sheppard—and lauded in the aftermath as “The Peacemakers of Charleston.” Also among those honored: Entrepreneur Elizabeth Holmes,

Planned Parenthood’s Cecile Richards and the victorious U.S. women’s soccer team.

Copeland, who became the first female African-American principal at American Ballet Theatre in June, took the oppor-

tunity to serve as a role model in accepting her award.

“Thank you for honoring a black ballerina.” To the young girls seated in the balcony from various schools and girls clubs, she said, “We’re trying to set the best example for you.”

Witherspoon gave the final speech of the night, speaking passionately about female ambition. “I believe ambition is not a dirty word,” she said.

Witherspoon co-founded a production company, Pacific Standard, which aims to make films featuring strong female lead roles as way to fight the gender gap in Hollywood. The company’s “Wild” and “Gone Girl” earned Oscar nominations for Witherspoon, Laura Dern and Rosamund Pike.

Witherspoon described her quest to give more actresses leading roles in films—“not the wife or the girlfriend, but the lead,” she said.

Among the achievements of some of this year’s other honorees:

Beckham gained fame as a Spice Girl, but has since become a highly respected fashion designer.

The U.S. women’s soccer team handily defeated Japan to win the 2015 World Cup in July, and was recently welcomed at the White House by President Barack Obama.

Modigliani nude painting fetches record \$170.4M in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—A painting by Amedeo Modigliani fetched \$170.4 million at an auction Monday, setting a world record for the artist and achieving the second highest price ever garnered for a work of art at auction.

“Reclining Nude” was sold at Christie’s in Manhattan after a protracted bidding battle to a buyer who wished to remain anonymous, according to the auction house.

Considered one of his best known works, the 1917-1918 painting nearly created a scandal when it was first exhibited in Paris. It depicts an unknown nude model reclining on a crimson couch and blue cushion.

The previous auction record for a Modigliani was \$71 million.

Pablo Picasso’s painting “Women of Algiers (Version O)” set the record for the highest sum ever paid for an artwork at auction. It sold for \$179.4 million at Christie’s in May.

A Roy Lichtenstein painting not seen on the market for 20 years also set a world record for the artist. “Nurse” sold for \$95.3 million, almost doubling the previous auction record for the pop artist of \$56 million.

Impressionist, modern and



Andy Warhol’s “Blue Jackie,” right, and Roy Lichtenstein’s “Interior with Yves Klein Sculpture,” left, are among master works being installed at Christie’s for the upcoming New York evening art auctions of impressionist, modern and post-war art, during a press preview, Friday Oct. 30, 2015, in New York.

contemporary art by well-known artists “do not require a tremendous amount of aesthetic or intellectual risk on the part of the collector,” said Sarah Lichtman, assistant professor of design history at Parson School of Design. “They are beautiful

paintings—some even exceptional as is the Modigliani—but they are tried and true.”

Christie’s expects to sell at least \$1 billion of art over a series of evening, day and online sales this week.

“There is clearly good ap-

petite among collectors for exceptional works of art offered with appropriate estimates,” said Brook Hazelton, president of the Americas for Christie’s. “This is a very broad and globally diverse market at the moment, with strong interest in

paintings, sculpture and works on paper from the \$10,000 level straight up to multimillion-dollar masterpieces at the top end.”

Also on sale Monday night were two major works by Paul Gauguin from his Tahiti period.

“Therese,” a carved wooden figure of a Tahitian female, brought in a record \$30.9 million, topping its presale high estimate of \$25 million. The previous auction record for a sculpture by the artist was \$11.2 million.

The other Gauguin, “Young Man with a Flower,” is a painting of a Tahitian youth wearing a white shirt, loose cravat and a white blossom tucked behind his ear. Christie’s said it fetched \$13.6 million, just above its low pre-sale estimate of \$12 million.

The portrait’s first owner was Henri Matisse, who paid 200 francs for it in 1900. Later owners included John Quinn and Lillie Bliss, one of the original founders of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The current auction record for a Gauguin painting is \$40.3 million.

Among other highlights of “The Artist’s Muse” sale is Pablo Picasso’s “Man with a Sword,” a self-portrait of the artist as a musketeer created in

1969. It sold for \$22.5 million. Christie’s said interest in Picasso’s late period musketeer portraits has grown dramatically in recent years.

Also of interest were two works by Lucian Freud.

“Naked Portrait on a Red Sofa” is a portrait of the artist’s daughter, the fashion designer Bella Freud. Its pre-sale estimate was \$20 million to \$30 million, but it failed to sell Monday night. One of a series of portraits of his daughters, it is the first time it was offered at auction.

On Tuesday, Christie’s is offering Freud’s “Brigadier,” a portrait of Andrew Parker Bowles, the former husband of Camilla Parker-Bowles, now the wife of Prince Charles. It was on view at the 2012 retrospective of the artist at the National Portrait Gallery in London and portrays the career soldier wearing his sumptuous army brigadier uniform. It’s estimated to sell for around \$30 million.

Tuesday’s post-war and contemporary art sale also has a mammoth bronze “Spider” sculpture by Louise Bourgeois, estimated at \$25 million to \$35 million. If realized, that price would exceed the artist’s current auction record of \$10.7 million and set a record for a sculpture by a female artist.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Billy Idol announces Vegas residency at House of Blues
LAS VEGAS (AP)—Billy Idol will be dancing with himself in Las Vegas. The punk rocker announced Monday a new Sin City residency with 12 dates in March and May. It will be at the House of Blues venue inside the Mandalay Bay casino-hotel. Tickets for the “Billy Idol: Forever” show go on sale this week and start at about \$80, plus fees. The show will feature the rocker’s longtime guitarist Steve Stevens. It also promises songs from throughout the entertainer’s catalog, including those with the British punk band fronted by Idol, Generation X, and solo hits such as “White Wedding” and “Dancing With Myself.”

Celebrity chef Cat Cora, partner divorcing in California
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Celebrity chef Cat Cora says she is getting a divorce from her partner of 17 years. The “Iron Chef America” star released a statement Monday confirming she and partner Jennifer Cora are ending their marriage. Court records in Santa Barbara, California, show that Jennifer Cora filed for divorce on Oct. 28 and Cat Cora filed her petition a day later. A copy of the filings, which were first reported by celebrity website TMZ, was not immediately available. The former couple has four sons. Cora’s statement says she and Jennifer Cora are committed to jointly raising their sons in a peaceful, nurturing and healthy environment.

Amy Schumer apologizes to fans who say show was too short
PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Amy Schumer is apologizing to fans who feel shortchanged by the brevity of a standup comedy show she did in Maine. The comedian says she did a 47-minute set that was rushed Saturday evening because of the need to accommodate a second show at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland. But some audience-goers say the set actually ran only 35 to 40 minutes and they were upset to learn the second show ran an hour. Schumer has a popular sketch series on Comedy Central and starred in the movie “Trainwreck.” She tells WCSH-TV the brief standup show was a “rookie mistake.” Richard Machlin tells the Portland Press Herald he wouldn’t have paid \$80 for a 35-minute show. He asked for a refund on Monday. Arena management has promised to get back to him.

Idris Elba to open for Madonna in Berlin
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Idris Elba is co-starring with Madonna on stage—not screen. The actor-musician will be the opening act during her “Rebel Heart” tour stop Tuesday at the Mercedes Benz Arena in Berlin, Germany. The “Luther” and “The Wire” actor is also a DJ, rapper and producer who has performed at several clubs and festivals in England and Ibiza. Madonna’s “Rebel Heart” tour launched last week in Europe and will make stops in 11 countries before returning to North America and moving on to Asia, Australia and New Zealand in 2016.

Irving Azoff to be honored at Clive Davis’ pre-Grammy gala
NEW YORK (AP)—Entertainment industry powerhouse Irving Azoff will be honored at Clive Davis’ pre-Grammy gala next year. The Recording Academy announced Monday that Azoff will receive the President’s Merit Award at The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California on Feb. 14, 2016, a day before the Grammy Awards. Azoff, the chairman and CEO of AzoffMSG Entertainment, manages John Mayer, Bon Jovi, the Eagles, Christina Aguilera and Gwen Stefani and others. The event will feature performances from veteran singers as well as breakthrough artists, as selected by Davis. Both Whitney Houston’s and Alicia Keys’ careers were launched at Davis’ pre-Grammy gala.



This 2015 photo provided by Wheel of Fortune shows a set from the television series, “Wheel of Fortune,” honoring veterans for Veterans Day.

‘Wheel of Fortune,’ ‘Jeopardy!’ salute US veterans

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Jeopardy!” and “Wheel of Fortune” aren’t playing around when it comes to marking Veterans Day. The game shows, in cooperation with the veterans’ support campaign Got Your 6, are using this week’s episodes to spotlight those who have served. On “Wheel of Fortune,” all of the contestants have been in a branch of the U.S. military. And host Pat Sajak, an Army veteran, joined with other vets and show presenter Vanna White to tape a series of public service announcements. The PSAs that will air during “Wheel of Fortune” aim to counter stereotypes and myths about veterans, said Army vet and Got Your 6 spokeswoman Kate Hoyt. Sajak said he was thrilled to “honor others who have served their country.” “Particularly in this all-volunteer era, it’s easy to forget about the sacrifices made by them and their families,” he said. Sajak joined the Army in 1968 and served for three years. That included an 18-month stint in Saigon that he said was largely spent as a U.S. Armed Forces radio DJ. On the “Jeopardy!” episode airing Wednesday, Veterans Day, “Modern Family” star Eric Stonestreet will present a veter-

ans-related category for the quiz show’s contestants. Sajak and “Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek, who has participated in more than a dozen USO trips over the years, also taped a PSA for Got Your 6 “Storytellers” events, one held in New York last week and one set for Tuesday in Los Angeles. Held in partnership with the TV academy, “Storytellers” provides a showcase for the talents and ideas of those who served, according to Got Your 6, which derives its name from the military phrase, “Got your back.” Got Your 6, as described on its website, brings together nonprofit, government and Holly-

wood partners to help veterans become community leaders and to foster understanding of their value through popular culture. Rob Gordon, president of Got Your 6’s parent organization Be The Change, said in a statement that the campaign was grateful to “Wheel” and “Jeopardy!” for showing how the entertainment industry can help “normalize depictions” of those who served. “Our veterans are civic assets for the nation, not broken heroes, and we so value gaining access to a national television platform that helps us deliver that message directly to millions of Americans,” Gordon said.

New Hampshire woman files defamation suit against Bill Cosby

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—A New Hampshire woman is joining the growing ranks of accusers suing Bill Cosby and alleging defamation. Kristina Ruehli says Cosby falsely accused her of lying when she came forward last

year and accused him of raping her in 1965. The Windham, New Hampshire, woman’s lawsuit was filed Monday in federal court in Springfield, Massachusetts, near where Cosby has a home. It seeks unspecified damages. It

follows similar civil actions by other Cosby accusers. Dozens of women have come forward in recent years to accuse Cosby of sexual impropriety spanning decades. Cosby played Dr. Cliff Huxtable on “The Cosby Show” and has been married for decades. He has denied the women’s accusations and has not been criminally charged. The statute of limitations has expired in most of the cases. Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt says he has no comment.

Husband upset by wife who wears heart on her sleeve

DEAR ABBY: I’m a mostly happily married wife and mother. I love tattoos. When I was younger, I was engaged to my soul mate. His name is tattooed on my wrists in honor of the love we shared. Unfortunately, he was killed in a car accident. Several years later, I met and married my husband, “Brett.” When we fight he brings up the tattoos. He says they’re “disrespectful” of him and I should get rid of them. It upsets me because I got the tattoos before I ever met Brett, so how can they be disrespectful? Am I being unreasonable, or should my husband back off?

ILLUSTRATED WOMAN IN COLORADO

DEAR ILLUSTRATED WOMAN: The tattoos are in no way disrespectful to your husband. They are the same body art you had when he married you, and if he didn’t complain back then, he shouldn’t now. When you’re fighting and Brett tells you to get rid of them, he’s doing it to hurt you because he knows they are meaningful and he’s trying to get under your skin. Insist on dealing with the subject at hand and don’t take the bait.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’d like to know if there’s any way to stop my mother-in-law from inviting herself to every birthday party and graduation our children have. They are pre-teen and teenagers now. She has done this for years, and it often doesn’t end well.

Because they are older, they prefer to hang out with their friends, do sleepovers, etc. Because she insists on staying the night, it’s hard to have room for sleepovers. She complains if she has to sleep on the couch, and she also has a fit if she’s not getting enough attention from the kids because they’d rather be with their friends and not her the whole time. I have tried explaining that she should come the weekend before or after, but she shows up on the birthday anyway. Her complaints ruin their birthdays, to the point that I no longer look forward to them. Any advice, since another birthday is right around the corner? (Maybe she’ll read this and have a change of heart.)

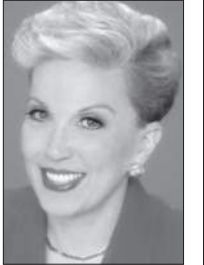
MISERABLE MOM IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MISERABLE MOM: Your mother-in-law sounds like a handful. However, I do believe that grandparents should be invited to milestones like graduations, where family is important. It’s hard to imagine Grandma would simply show up at the kids’ party after being asked to stay away, but you can’t slam the door in her face. When she barges in, for your own sake tune her complaining out. Walk away if you must. As to altering the sleeping arrangements to suit an uninvited guest—don’t do it. Where is your husband in all of this? She’s his mother; if you can’t make her see reason, then he should. It’s normal for teens to want to celebrate with their contemporaries—and

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Grandma had better get used to it before they turn tail and run whenever they see her coming. ■ ■ ■ ■ **DEAR VETERANS:** I salute each and every one of you for your service to this country. My heartfelt thanks as well to the brave and dedicated men and women who are still on active duty. You are the personification of patriotism and self-sacrifice for your dedication to our country. Love, ABBY

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

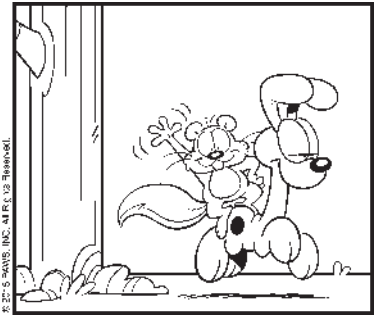
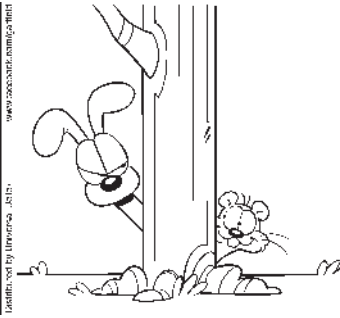
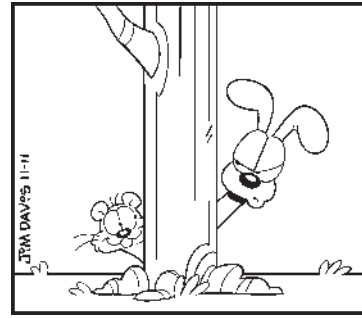
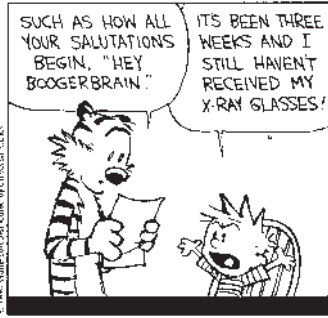
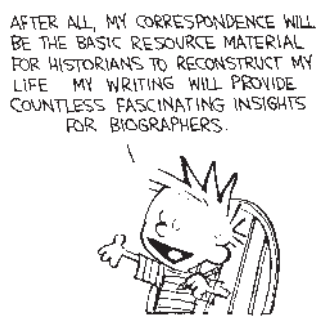
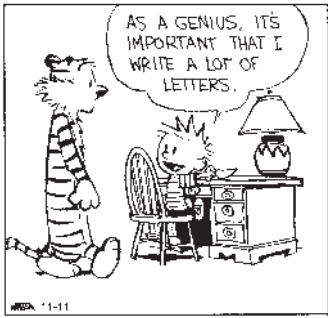
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

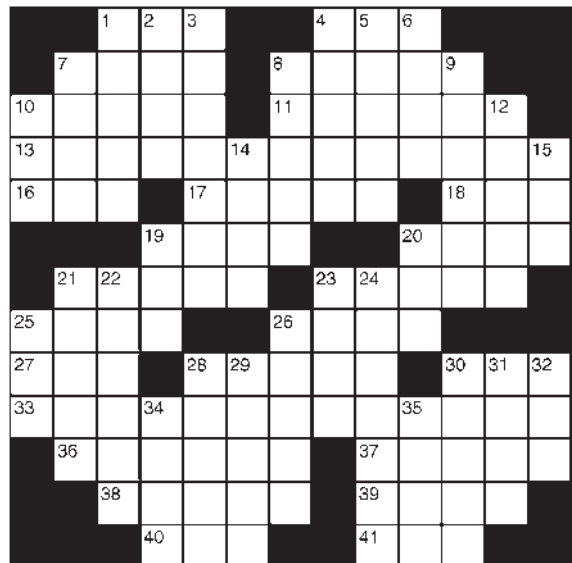
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The X-Files" gp.
- 4 Refrain opener
- 7 Flub
- 8 Vacation isle
- 10 "Uptown Funk" singer Mars
- 11 Detoxes, with "up"
- 13 Astronaut portrayer in "Gravity"
- 16 Toss in
- 17 Sewer cover
- 18 — tai cocktail
- 19 Auction cry
- 20 Joker
- 21 Japanese capital, once
- 23 A bit lit
- DOWN**
- 12 Spine-tingling
- 14 Woody's son
- 15 Josh
- 19 Yachter's "Help!"
- 20 Tax prep pro
- 21 Sky boxes?
- 22 Yokels
- 23 Towering
- 24 "No harm done!"
- 25 Gucci product
- 26 Fights off a mugger
- 28 Creeps
- 29 No. 2 men or women
- 30 Draft status?
- 31 Icy Hot rival
- 32 Sounds of woe
- 34 Sultry Hayworth
- 35 Waikiki locale

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-11



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Leonardo DiCaprio, 41; Calista Flockhart, 51; Demi Moore, 53; Stanley Tucci, 55.

Happy Birthday: Make unique changes to the way you live. Stop dreaming about making a difference and start doing it. Progressive action will lead to a higher profile and the opportunity to go from being a passive observer to an active participant. Make your voice heard. A passionate approach to life will bring you high rewards and draw the respect of your friends and family. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 23, 32, 45, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Enough is enough. Whatever isn't working for you should be reconsidered and changed. It's time to work on achieving better results. Your generosity has created more of a hindrance than a benefit, and you must get back to doing what counts. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Offering assistance will lead to a profitable union. Attend networking functions or check out the job market to see if something interests you. Interviews, negotiations and business trips are favored. Expand your professional interests. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stay on top of whatever situation you face when networking or socializing. Not everyone will be honest with you. A disciplined approach to your responsibilities will bring the best results and show others how capable you are. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may not get along with everyone today, but if you are willing to look at both sides of a situation, you will come up with solutions that

will make you look like a genius. Don't fret—take on new challenges optimistically. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't fold under pressure. Everything will be OK if you remain calm and offer reasonable suggestions and answers. Don't lose sight of the changes you want to make to improve your state of mind, future opportunities and your personal life. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Talks will lead to new opportunities. Your ability to persuade others to see your point of view or to collaborate with you on a project will ensure success. A changing relationship could offer a unique lifestyle change. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Re-evaluate your skills and qualifications and upgrade wherever necessary. Your knowledge will have a lot to do with your success. Don't hide your talents or think everyone else can do things better. Express your interest to a potential employer. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Situations will move too quickly or not fast enough. Patience and preparation will be the key to how far you will get. Offering help to someone in need will spark enthusiasm to try something new and unusual. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Secrets are best kept until you are certain the information you have isn't going to hurt you or someone else. A responsible attitude will be necessary to maintain your reputation or position. Concentrate on making positive changes at home. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):



When it comes to work projects, source out reliable people and delegate matters to those you trust. Put your plans into motion and consider ways to turn something you do well into a moneymaking venture. Stay on top of nutrition and physical wellness. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't step into the spotlight unless you are ready to be criticized. Put more into self-improvement and working behind the scenes to ensure that you are fully prepared to take on whatever challenges await you. Romance is encouraged. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be hard to resist, no matter what you do. Whether it's business or personal matters, your persuasive tactics will help you achieve your goals. An opportunity to get involved in a lucrative joint venture looks promising. *****



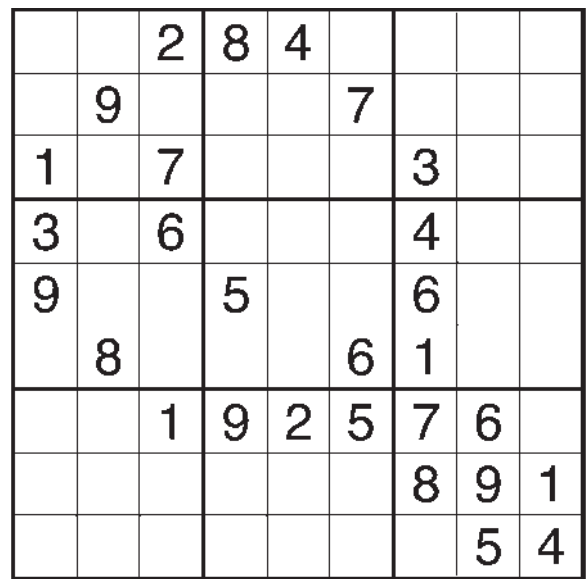
Birthday Baby: You are passionate, respectful and open-minded. You are imaginative and persistent.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

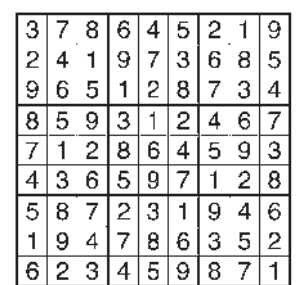


Difficulty Level ★★

11/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

11/11

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Solution: 4 letters



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Barefoot, Bikini, Block, Board Shorts, Bump, Captain, Carry, Court, Culture, Dink, Dive, End Line, Fault, Fingers, Free Zone, Hawaii, Heat, Hits, Net, Olympics, Opponent, Over, Passing, Players, Points, Posts, Push, Rally, Referee, Replay, Round, Sandy, Score, Serve, Sets, Setting, Space, Spike, Sport, Summer, Team, Toss, Tournament, Twenty-one, Win by Two
Yesterday's Answer: Stew
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2 Electronic Technician-\$6.50-\$6.75/hr. For inquiry, call Cleo at 234-9199. Champstar Trading Corporation.

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to inform the general public, that Walter Yu (Manager) is no longer connected with Green Leisure, LLC dba: Hotel Galleria effective November 6, 2015.

Any transaction with him will no longer be honored by our company. For further information, please call us at (670) 233-1333. Thank you.

/s/ Qitong Liu
President

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Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

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High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities for at least 2 years. Must be computer literate in Microsoft Word and Email. With experience in preparing of reports and schedules for sports activities and with good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

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Clippers edge Grizzlies, 94-92, on Redick's late scoring



LOS ANGELES (AP)—J.J. Redick scored six points in the final 55 seconds to rally the Los Angeles Clippers to a 94-92 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night, snapping a two-game skid.

Blake Griffin had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and DeAndre Jordan added 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers during a back-and-forth game in which neither team led by more than eight points.

Redick finished with 16 points, but his biggest contributions came when he hit a go-ahead 3-pointer and then got fouled by Tony Allen and made all three free throws to put the Clippers ahead 90-86.

Zach Randolph scored 26 points to lead the Grizzlies, who dropped their third in a row. Marc Gasol added 18 points but had a couple of costly misses at the foul line in the closing seconds, and Mike Conley had 16.

The final 13 seconds turned into a foul fest.

Chris Paul fouled former teammate Matt Barnes on a 3-point attempt with eight seconds left, and Barnes made all three to draw the Grizzlies to 90-89. Paul finished with 14 points.

Jamal Crawford hit a pair of free throws after being fouled by Courtney Lee to keep Los Angeles ahead 92-89 with seven seconds left. Crawford added 13 points off the bench, but drew groans from the fans with a rare miss that had Los Angeles leading 93-90 with five seconds to go.

Gasol was only 3 of 6 over the final six seconds while an especially loud male fan taunted him.

Neither team led by more than six points through the first three quarters.

Crawford's 3-pointer from the right corner beat the buzzer to end the third, giving the Clippers a 70-66 lead.

Timberwolves 117, Hawks 107

In Atlanta, Andrew Wiggins equaled a career high with 33 points and Karl-Anthony Towns added 17 as the Minnesota Timberwolves blew a 34-point lead before snapping the Atlanta Hawks' seven-game winning streak with a 117-107 victory on Monday.

Atlanta never led until Paul Millsap's runner with 3:26 remaining made it 107-106, but Wiggins scored the next seven points to prevent one of the biggest collapses in NBA history.

Jeff Teague finished with 24 points and Millsap had 22 for the Hawks.

The Timberwolves avoided what would have been the franchise's biggest blown lead in a loss. They led by 29 before falling to Dallas on Dec. 30, 2008.

It marked the first time in Wiggins' two-year career that he's had consecutive 30-point



Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, right, tries to grab a rebound along with center DeAndre Jordan, left, and Memphis Grizzlies forward Zach Randolph during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 9, 2015, in Los Angeles.

games. His 3-pointer early in the third made it 81-47.

Warriors 109, Pistons 95

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry overcame his worst shooting night of the season to score 22 points as Golden State beat Detroit to remain the NBA's only undefeated team.

Curry missed five of his first seven shots and finished 7 of 18 from the floor while being held under 30 points for only the third time this season. The reigning MVP also had five assists and five rebounds.

Klay Thompson added 24 points, Harrison Barnes had 12, Andre Iguodala scored 13 and Leandro Barbosa had 10, including five straight to help the Warriors pull away in the fourth quarter.

Golden State's 8-0 start is the second-best in franchise history. The Philadelphia Warriors won their first nine games in 1960-61.

Reggie Jackson, coming off a career-high 40-point night in Portland, scored 20 points for Detroit (5-2). Andre Drummond added 14 points and 15 rebounds.

Bulls 111, 76ers 88

In Philadelphia, Nikola Mirotic had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Pau Gasol scored 16 points to lead Chicago past winless Philadelphia.

The Bulls played without Joakim Noah and still cruised to a 15-point lead in the first quarter. They eventually stretched the lead to 26 points. Doug McDermott scored 18 points and Derrick Rose had 12.

Philadelphia (0-7) has lost 17 straight games dating to March 27, 2015. The 17-game skid matches the fourth-longest mark in franchise history, and three of those lengthy losing streaks

have come since the start of the 2013-14 season.

The Sixers matched an NBA record with 26 straight losses from Jan. 31, 2014, to March 27, 2014, and also lost 17 straight from Oct. 29, 2014, to Dec. 1, 2014, according to STATS LLC.

Under coach Brett Brown, the Sixers' last win was March 25 against Denver.

Nuggets 108, Trail Blazers 104

In Denver, J.J. Hickson scored 19 points and rookie Emmanuel

Mudiay hit two game-sealing free throws with 18.3 seconds remaining, helping Denver beat Portland.

Mudiay finished with 18 points and Kenneth Faried added 17—and drew a key late charge—as the Nuggets ended an eight-game skid to the Trail Blazers.

Hickson came up big down the stretch, hitting four free throws in the final 1:49 to keep the Blazers at bay.

With Denver up 106-104, Mudiay connected two free throws. He then blocked Da-

mian Lillard's layup to close out Denver's first win at home this season.

Lillard led Portland with 30 points. Backcourt mate CJ McCollum had a rough shooting night early, but scored 12 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter to keep the Blazers in the game.

Spurs 106, Kings 88

In Sacramento, California, Kawhi Leonard scored 24 points, and Tim Duncan had 11 points and 14 rebounds as San Antonio beat Sacramento.

The Spurs pulled away in

the fourth quarter to win their second straight and fifth in six games since dropping their season-opener to Oklahoma City.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 points and nine rebounds, Tony Parker had 13 points and the Spurs outscored the Kings 34-19 in the fourth quarter. The Spurs shot 53 percent.

DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and 12 rebounds in his return to the lineup but the Kings dropped their sixth straight game. Ex-Spur Marco Belinelli had 17 points, Omri Casspi had 16 and Rajon Rondo had nine points and 12 assists.

The Kings have used seven different starting lineups through eight games. Cousins (Achilles tendon strain) missed the previous four games, all losses.

Pacers 97, Magic 84

In Indianapolis, Paul George made a pivotal go-ahead basket late and finished with 27 points to lead Indiana over Orlando.

George's 3-pointer with 5:51 remaining gave the Pacers an 83-81 lead. Indiana used a 17-3 fourth quarter run to take the lead and pull away for its fourth win in five games.

After George's make, Chase Budinger made a 3 and George Hill drove to the basket to make it 88-81. Hill finished with 23 points and seven rebounds.

Evan Fournier had 21 points and Victor Oladipo added 15 points and seven rebounds for the Magic.

Orlando had 21 turnovers, including four during Indiana's big run that ended with a 3-pointer by Hill to make it 95-84 with 1:22 left.

Kobe's wish: Treat visits like he did Jordan's last All-Star

NEW YORK (AP)—It's off to Florida now for Kobe Bryant, for two more games that will potentially be his last in those cities.

The Los Angeles Lakers visit Miami on Tuesday and are in Orlando the next night. Yet even if he thinks these are his last trips, don't count on him squeezing in a stop on South Beach to test a restaurant recommendation, or hop over to Walt Disney World for souvenir shopping.

If Bryant didn't do it his first 19 seasons, he won't start now.

"I don't break routine," Bryant said. "I try not to do anything different. Even if it could be my last time there, I try not to do anything different, I try to just honor everything I've been doing throughout my career."

That's what he wants the opponents he's visiting to do.

If they want to know how to treat what could be Bryant's final appearance before retirement, Bryant said they should take a page from Michael Jordan's last All-Star Game in 2003.

Before that game, Jordan told Bryant to compete against



New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony (7) embraces Los Angeles Lakers forward Kobe Bryant (24) at the end of an NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015.

him like it was any other game. "And I said, 'Michael, what the hell about me led you to think I was going to approach this any differently?'" Bryant said with a laugh. "But I think that's the greatest sign of respect. I feel the same

way where I sit now, is that it's about the competition that shows the greatest sign of respect."

The Lakers have a road-heavy start that gets many of Bryant's potential last visits out of the way early, but coach

Byron Scott said he doesn't focus much on that.

"We don't know what the future holds and I don't know what Kobe plans on doing after this season, so what I try to do is just enjoy the time that he's here," Scott said.

Miller's 1-handed TD grab lifts Bears over Chargers, 22-19



SAN DIEGO (AP)—Zach Miller leaped, snagged Jay Cutler's pass with his right hand and tumbled into the end zone.

A big-time play in another close finish for the Chicago Bears, who beat the staggering San Diego Chargers 22-19 on Monday night.

"Jay made a great throw and I was able to go up and get it. After that, I went unconscious," Miller said about his game-winning catch with 3:19 left.

"It was one of those things where instincts kind of take over. I really didn't have time to go up with two, because he put some juice on it. I went with one and thankfully pulled it down."

Miller's TD reception and a 2-point conversion run by rookie Jeremy Langford, subbing for the injured Matt Forte, gave the Bears (3-5) their first lead of the night. Chicago's last five games have been decided by three points or less, including consecutive losses to Minnesota and Detroit before the trip to San Diego.

Cutler, who had an interception returned for a touchdown and lost a fumble, kept attacking San Diego's depleted secondary, completing 27 of 40 passes for 345 yards.

"We have got to figure out how to win in the fourth quarter," Cutler said. "We have talked about it. We've won games in the fourth quarter, we've lost in the fourth quarter. That's what the NFL is about. You have to play your best in the fourth quarter, and that's what coach (John) Fox has talked about. It's good that it happened today, but we have to continue it."

Cutler calmly led the Bears on the winning 10-play, 80-yard drive after the Chargers opened a 19-14 lead on rookie Josh Lambo's 22-yard field goal. Two plays before the TD throw to Miller, Cutler was hit and still completed a 12-yard pass to Alshon Jeffery on third-and-6.

"The safety flew over the top and it was just a matter of waiting for Zach to get past the linebacker," Cutler said. "I left it high on him, and he made a heck of a catch. It couldn't have happened to a better guy. For him to come up with a catch, it was something special."

The Bears scored 15 points in the fourth quarter.



Chicago Bears tight end Zach Miller makes a touchdown catch as San Diego Chargers inside linebacker Donald Butler looks on during the second half of an NFL football game Monday, Nov. 9, 2015, in San Diego.

Cutler's two TD passes broke the franchise record, giving him 139 with the Bears. He had been tied with Hall of Famer Sid Luckman.

San Diego (2-7) lost its fifth straight game for its longest skid since dropping six straight in 2011. It's the longest losing streak in coach

Mike McCoy's three seasons.

San Diego's Philip Rivers was 26 of 42 for 280 yards. It was the first time in six games that he didn't

throw for more than 300.

"When you lose five in a row it's pretty sickening," Rivers said. "When it's like this you kind of want to dig a hole and hid for a little while."

The Chargers made numerous mistakes.

Rivers threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Gates in the fourth quarter but it was nullified when right guard D.J. Fluker was whistled for being an ineligible receiver downfield. The Chargers had to settle for Lambo's 22-yard field goal.

Earlier in that drive, wide receiver Stevie Johnson spiked the ball after making a catch for a first down at the 4 and was whistled for delay of game.

"It's all emotion. We're out there playing hard and I was trying to get in the end zone," Johnson said. "I didn't really spike it that hard but they called it and that is part of it. I've got to be smarter than that."

The Bears had a rough first half, but the Chargers couldn't put them away.

Cutler lost a fumble on a sack and then made an off-the-mark throw to Jeffery, which second-year cornerback Jason Verrett intercepted and returned 68 yards for a 13-0 lead.

The Chargers suffered even more injuries.

Verrett hurt his groin one play after his pick-six and came out, but remained on the sideline. Cornerback Patrick Robinson left with a neck injury.

Wide receiver Malcom Floyd, who is playing his last season, injured his left shoulder while diving trying to make a catch. Eight days earlier, San Diego's Keenan Allen, one of the NFL's leading receivers, suffered a season-ending lacerated kidney when he landed hard at the end of a spectacular touchdown catch in a loss at Baltimore.

Cutler broke the franchise record for touchdown passes when he found Martellus Bennett for a 1-yard score midway through the second quarter.

Cutler had been tied with Luckman with 137 with the Bears. Cutler began his career with the Broncos. Luckman threw his final touchdown pass as a member of the Bears on Sept. 17, 1950.

Langford scored on a 1-yard run early in the fourth quarter to start Chicago's comeback.

NFL suspends CB Aqib Talib for poking player in the eye

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Aqib Talib says he understands why the NFL suspended him for poking Colts tight end Dwayne Allen in his right eye. He just hopes the league agrees it was accidental once he gets to tell his side of the story.

"I think I deserve discipline. I didn't initially poke him in his eye. But as you can see, I did get him in his eye," Talib said Monday. "It was unintentional. They've got the right to discipline me as they did."

The NFL swiftly slapped Talib with a one-game suspension Monday, and just as quickly Talib appealed the punishment "just for the simple fact that it was not intentional," he said.

"I didn't walk over there like I'm going to poke this guy in his eye. But I know I should have never gone over there in the first place."

If upheld, Denver's star cornerback will miss the Broncos' game against the Kansas City Chiefs (3-5)

this weekend. He'll also miss out on a \$323,529 paycheck on his \$5.5 million base salary.

"I sat with Aqib on the plane coming home last night, had a long talk with him," coach Gary Kubiak said Monday. "He's wrong. He needs to stay out of the situation. It hurt the team."

Talib said Kubiak stressed that his actions prevented Peyton Manning from getting the chance to mount a comeback. Manning finished 3 yards and one touchdown shy of breaking two of Brett Favre's biggest NFL records, for most career passing yards and most victories by a starting QB.

"I know I've got to be smarter than that, got to make better decisions, especially at the time of the game," Talib said.

"We've got full confidence that we stop them on that third down, with the two-minute, Peyton can come down and score a touchdown and get that 187th win in dramatic fashion. I cost

us the opportunity to go down and get those points. So, that's kind of what we talked about on that plane." Kubiak said his conversation with his cornerback convinced him the poke in the eye was an accident.

"He went to push him—which he shouldn't do anyway, it doesn't matter—then, obviously, his hands are inside his facemask," Kubiak said. "I'm convinced, and after talking to Aqib, that he had no intention of poking anybody in the eye."

Talib was whistled twice in the final 2 minutes, 25 seconds of Denver's 27-24 loss at Indianapolis that knocked the Broncos (7-1) from the ranks of the unbeaten.

The first was for unnecessary roughness when he poked two fingers into Allen's facemask after Allen and Von Miller were shouting and shoving following a 2-yard run by Frank Gore.

After the game, Talib said he tried to "poke his head. I think my hand slipped

there and hit his face. He acted like he got into an 18-passenger car wreck. I guess that's what type of guy he is."

The second infraction came when linebacker Danny Trevathan was whistled for holding on a chip-shot field goal with 28 seconds left, giving Indy a first down and allowing the Colts to run out the clock. At that point, Talib tauntingly clapped at an official, drawing an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

On Monday, Talib said he apologized to his teammates for losing his cool.

"I strongly believe it was an accident," tight end Vernon Davis said. "He didn't mean it. He came on the bus and was saying he felt bad."

NFL Vice President of Football Operations Merton Hanks ruled that Talib's actions "places his opponent at unnecessary risk of injury and should have been avoided."

Derrick Brooks or James Thrash will rule on his appeal, which Talib

expects to be heard Tuesday, the Broncos' day off.

The Pro Bowl cornerback has a troubled past, including a four-game suspension in 2012 for violating the league's policy on performance enhancing substances and a one-game ban in 2010 for violating the league's personal conduct policy.

Until Sunday, Talib had been a model player in Denver since signing a six-year, \$57 million free agent contract in 2014. He was one of their MVPs over the first half of the season, leading Denver's top-ranked defense with three interceptions and two pick-6s.

Although the Broncos lead the league in several defensive categories, they also lead the NFL with 17 personal fouls.

"I'm very concerned," Kubiak said. "Statistically, we have the No. 1 defense in football, but we're also the most penalized. We've got a great thing going on. We've got something that needs to get corrected. We have to find a way in the second half of the season to turn that around."

More and earlier trade talk as MLB general managers gather



BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)—Dave Dombrowski, Boston's new president of baseball operations, asked some of his staff to arrive by afternoon to get a head start on the annual general managers' meetings, which began with a dinner Monday night.

"By the time I sat down, they said, like, wow, we just got here and we're behind because we had had so many discussions already," he said.

Just eight days after the World Series, the offseason trade and signings season intensified with the start of the four-day session, usually a warmup to the larger winter meetings in December.

Since the start of August, new general managers have been appointed for Detroit, Milwaukee,

Boston, Seattle, Atlanta, the Los Angeles Angels, Oakland, Cincinnati and Philadelphia, and Toronto has an interim baseball operations head. For all but the Athletics, Braves and Reds, a new top baseball decision-maker is in charge.

Combine the change with a free-agent class that includes starting pitchers Zack Greinke, David Price, Johnny Cueto, Jordan Zimmermann, Jeff Samardzija and Scott Kazmir, and executives schmoozing each other at the Boca Raton Resort & Club don't want to be left out of the marketplace for both signings and trades.

"I think part of it was the playoff teams were pretty well identified early, except for a couple, so that allowed a lot of other clubs to sort their plan-

ning," said Dombrowski, who was hired by the Red Sox just two weeks after he was fired by Detroit. "I think some agents are probably aggressive because they see there is a big number of pitchers out there. Some people speculated yesterday that perhaps it was a situation where a lot of new general managers means they're not tied to the players in their organization as much.

"I don't know if it's some or all of that or really what," he said, "but I've had many more conversations and more serious conversations early than normally would be the case."

After missing the playoffs in consecutive years and then losing in the AL wild-card game to Houston this year, New York Yankees GM Brian Cashman noticed a difference.

"It hasn't typically been busy GM meetings overall in years gone by, but it feels like the dialogue has been a lot more active throughout October than any year prior," Cashman said.

During the sessions, baseball officials are likely to discuss possible rules to protect middle infielders, similar to a rule enacted for 2014 that banned most home-plate collisions. The second-base issue has been in focus since the Los Angeles Dodgers' Chase Utley broke the leg of New York Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada with a takeout slide during the NL Division Series.

"We've already had discussions with MLB, certainly surrounding that event," Mets assistant general manager John Ricco said. "I think certainly we want to make sure we're protecting players, same way we talked about it with the collision rule."

Management also has started

the process of preparing for labor negotiations, which are likely to start early next year ahead of the expiration of baseball's collective bargaining agreement on Dec. 1 next year.

MISSING

Mets general manager Sandy Alderson will miss the meetings to undergo an unspecified medical procedure, a week after fainting during a news conference at Citi Field.

DROPPING BY

Dombrowski met with Hanley Ramirez, who is being asked to move from outfield to first base next season. Dombrowski said he would like to see Ramirez lose about 15 pounds, not because he is overweight, but to get more athletic.

SABATHIA

Cashman would not commit to CC Sabathia being in the rota-

tion following the left-hander's third straight subpar season. Sabathia left the team on the final weekend of the regular season for alcohol rehabilitation. "Certainly the hope is that he would be a viable member of that rotation," Cashman said. "So let's just see how the winter shakes out first. I'm not guaranteeing anybody anything."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	5	2	.714	—
New York	3	4	.429	2
Boston	2	3	.400	2
Brooklyn	0	7	.000	5
Philadelphia	0	7	.000	5

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	7	2	.778	—
Miami	4	3	.571	2
Washington	3	3	.500	2½
Orlando	3	5	.375	3½
Charlotte	2	4	.333	3½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	6	1	.857	—
Detroit	5	2	.714	1
Chicago	5	3	.625	1½
Milwaukee	4	3	.571	2
Indiana	4	4	.500	2½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	5	2	.714	—
Houston	4	3	.571	1
Dallas	3	3	.500	1½
Memphis	3	5	.375	2½
New Orleans	0	6	.000	4½

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	4	2	.667	—
Utah	4	2	.667	—
Oklahoma City	4	3	.571	½
Portland	4	4	.500	1
Denver	3	4	.429	1½

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	8	0	1.000	—
L.A. Clippers	5	2	.714	2½
Phoenix	3	4	.429	4½
L.A. Lakers	1	5	.167	6
Sacramento	1	7	.125	7

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	0	0	1.000	276	143
N.Y. Jets	5	3	0	.625	200	162
Buffalo	4	4	0	.500	209	190
Miami	3	5	0	.375	171	206

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	4	5	0	.444	200	227
Houston	3	5	0	.375	174	205
Jacksonville	2	6	0	.250	170	235
Tennessee	2	6	0	.250	159	187

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	8	0	0	1.000	229	142
Pittsburgh	5	4	0	.556	206	182
Baltimore	2	6	0	.250	190	214
Cleveland	2	7	0	.222	177	247

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	7	1	0	.875	192	139
Oakland	4	4	0	.500	213	211
Kansas City	3	5	0	.375	195	182
San Diego	2	7	0	.222	210	249

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556	247	226
Philadelphia	4	4	0	.500	193	164
Washington	3	5	0	.375	158	195
Dallas	2	6	0	.250	160	204

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	8	0	0	1.000	228	165
Atlanta	6	3	0	.667	229	190
New Orleans	4	5	0	.444	241	268
Tampa Bay	3	5	0	.375	181	231

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	6	2	0	.750	168	140
Green Bay	6	2	0	.750	203	167
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	162	221
Detroit	1	7	0	.125	149	245

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	6	2	0	.750	263	153
St. Louis	4	4	0	.500	153	146
Seattle	4	4	0	.500	167	140
San Francisco	3	6	0	.333	126	223

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB BRIEFS

Blue Jays 3B Donaldson voted top major leaguer by his peers

NEW YORK (AP)—Toronto Blue Jays third baseman Josh Donaldson was voted major league player of the year and AL outstanding player in the annual Players Choice Awards, and Washington slugger Bryce Harper was picked as the NL outstanding player. Baltimore outfielder Adam Jones won the Marvin Miller man of the year award, given to a player who most inspires others through his efforts on and off the field. Jones hosted a clinic for inner city youth after unrest in Baltimore this year and assists the James Mosher Little League, the YMCA of Central Maryland, the Boys and Girls Club of Baltimore and Reviving Base-

ball in the Inner Cities. Houston ace Dallas Keuchel was voted the AL's outstanding pitcher, and Los Angeles Dodgers right-hander Zack Greinke the NL's outstanding pitcher. Astros shortstop Carlos Correa and Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant were the top rookies, while Texas slugger Prince Fielder and New York Mets pitcher Matt Harvey were the top comeback players. Balloting was conducted in mid-September by the Major League Baseball Players Association and winners were announced Monday. The awards began in 1992.

Mets' Alderson to miss GM meetings for medical procedure

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)—New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson will miss

the annual GM meetings to undergo an unspecified medical procedure, a week after fainting during a news conference at Citi Field. Mets assistant general manager John Ricco made the announcement Monday at the start of the four-day session. Ricco says Alderson did not want to make public the details. Ricco adds the procedure originally was scheduled for earlier during the team's postseason run but was delayed when the team reached the World Series. Ricco says "I don't want to portray it, though, as something extremely urgent about it." New York will be represented at the meetings by Ricco, vice president of player development and amateur scouting Paul DePodesta and special assistant to GM J.P. Ricciardi.

Belau softball group to re-organize



Belau Softball League organizers will be holding a meeting today, Nov. 11, to plan the election of their new board members and officers at 6pm at Café MangoSix in Dandan.

The association needs to re-organize since vice president Newman Techur will be leaving the island for good, according to president Brian Adelbai.

Adelbai said that he and secretary-treasurer Perry Besong are calling all seven board members and other of-

ficers to attend the meeting.

They will also be discussing their group's next event, a women's fast-pitch softball league.

Adelbai said they would schedule a separate meeting for all interested women's teams that would join the fast-pitch league.

The meeting for the women's fast-pitch open league is either set for next week or end of the month.

For more information, call Adelbai at 484-3886. (Jon Perez)

WINNING

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the two-lap course (2.1 miles or 3.3k) for middle school runners in 15:30. John Saluta (17:38) and ACS' Bobby Pang (18:32) came in second and third, respectively.

Esther Li prevented a shutout for the ACS bets after topping the girls U15 division in 22:08 relegating Saipan Community School's Sunny Woo and Saipan Southern High School's Rae Min to second and third places with times of 22:44 and 25:55, respectively.

Mt. Carmel School's Christian Villacrusis continued with his dominant run in the boys

U15 class with the fastest overall time of 13:12. His times in the first and second legs were 9:00 and 12:56.

MHS' David Roberto was eight seconds behind Villacrusis with 13:30, while fellow Dolphin Neil Skerei, a member of the CNMI Junior All-Star team in this year's Asia Pacific regional tournament, came in third (13:50).

The final leg is on Nov. 14 still at the Airport Field with 3:15pm as registration and 4pm start. The order of the race will be middle school (2.1 miles or 3.3K) and high school (3.2 miles or 5.1K) first followed by the elementary runners (1 mile or 1.6K).

LEE

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and the score was close. I was kind of nervous, but that didn't make me lose my pride and faith. I tried my best and did all the things I practiced and my hard work paid off," Lee said in an interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday.

After completing her singles assignment, Lee said she hoped to march into the finals with partner Chairmaine Seah of Singapore.

"I expected to go to the finals, but unfortunately it didn't really work out. The players were tough. We could have won the first set in

the semifinals," Lee said.

The CNMI bet and her teammate played an extended opening set before Sin Yu Wang and Tingting Pei of China pulled off a 7-6 (4) win in their Final Four duel. The Chinese eventually took the finals berth in the lower half of the draw after prevailing in the second set, 6-1, and they also bagged the doubles title following a 6-1, 6-3 victory against Malaysia's Belinda Chai Wei Xin and Yi Tsen Cho of Chinese-Taipei.

Before bowing to Pei and Wang, the unranked duo of Lee and Seah stunned the No. 2-seed-

ed pair of Aulana and Novela Millenia Putri, 6-2, 6-3, in the quarterfinals, and dominated Singapore Ruhi Kamdar and Tessa Wong, 6-0, 6-0, in the first match.

"That day (quarterfinals), I did pretty good. It was like I was dancing on the court, making a lot of winners and volleys," Lee said.

Meanwhile, Lee will resume training on Saipan to prepare for two tournaments. She will be competing in the 2015 Tan Holdings Tennis Classic later this month and will join teammates Conatsu Kaga, Tania Tan, Robbie Schorr, and Ken Song in a competition in Australia next month.

TEEN

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of the boys from this festival will help them improve as an individual and as a team," Angeles said.

"So much was happening around us this morning like injured and sick teammates and the hot weather—they were losing focus. I told the boys to deal with them, make use of what we have and still focus on the game. I switched some players and have them try new positions. I also gave players

equal playing time for this last match. We still tried to attack when we had the chance and were able to take a few shots," the coach added.

The closest attempt came from defender Kirt Andon around the final five minutes of the 60-minute match.

"I let him play center mid-field in the second half that's how he was able to beat the last defender by dribbling. He was able to shoot against the goalkeeper (Fan Ilu Su) and everyone was standing up ready to celebrate but it ended

up on the goalie's hands," Angeles said.

Earlier in the first half, Andon also attempted a free kick about 30 yards away, but Su blocked it.

According to Angeles, Andon's free kick almost hit the upper right corner of the goal before the North Korean goalkeeper caught the ball.

"It was a very nice shot, a very close one," the Teen Ayuyus mentor added.

With the CNMI crew completing its assignment in the festival yesterday, team officials

acknowledged the people who made their stint in the EAFF event possible.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people that supported the team: EAFF, GFA and NMIFA officials, NMI U13 officials, parents, and the players. Everyone enjoyed the event and is looking forward to the next festival," Angeles said.

The CNMI fielded 18 players for the festival with Andon joined by goalkeepers Floyd Muna and Jason Quimzon, defenders Eun Syu Hahn,

Lolobeyong Benito, and Ian Maniago, midfielders Mark Esalan, Thaiphi Austria, Sebastien Manabat, Kirro Batino, Raseff Altamirano, Angelo Bergancia, Justin Achas, and Johoey Noble, and forwards John Michale Rojas, Edward Cho, Kaden Church, and Taka Borja on the Teen Ayuyus' roster. Associate Judge David Wiseman was the CNMI's delegation head, while Taketomo Suzuki and Eric Abragan served as assistant coach and team manager, respectively.

Erika's/Ferrera, GMI Market prevail

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Erika's Catering/Ferrera Builders and GMI Market defeated KB Market-backed squads in their respective divisions in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League.

In the masters game last Monday at the San Antonio court, Erika's/Ferrera outclassed KB Market, 80-74, while in the U18 match last Sunday, GMI Market cruised to a 106-67 victory.

Six GMI Market players scored in double digits to hand their team its fourth win in as many games in the U18 division, while KB Market is still winless in four matches. Jethro Cruz led GMI Market with his 19 points, Djay Ong chipped in 16, while Jun Alipio and Snech N-Nes contributed 15 apiece. Greg Sablan and James Kintaro were the other double-figure scorers for the unbeaten GMI Market, making 14 and 10, respectively.

GMI Market notched the lopsided victory after pulling away in the second quarter,

which started with the winning team ahead by only 5, 23-18. Ong spearheaded the breakaway, drilling 8 of his total output in the second period, while his five other teammates also entered the scoreboard to give GMI Market a 51-38 halftime advantage.

Ong and company played no let-up on offense in the second half en route to a 49-point winning margin. Cruz led the second-half assault for GMI Market, as he scored all his points in the final 20 minutes of play, including 8 straight markers bridging the closing minute of the third quarter and the early seconds of the fourth.

In the masters division, Erika's/Ferrera also gained momentum in the second period and protected the driver's seat in the final half to improve to a 3-2 record for second place in the team standings behind MJD/GPPC (3-0) and GMJ/IKKI (2-0).

Erika's/Ferrera turned a 30-23 lead at the end of the first quarter to a 43-33 advantage at halftime with Lawrence Borja scoring the team's last 7 points in the second frame.

Borja was scoreless in the third quarter, but Erika's/Ferrera still got contributions

from seven players to keep its distance against KB Market, 57-53, entering the final canto. In the playoff period, KB Market (2-2) continued to knock on Erika's/Ferrera's door, but the latter stood its ground and drilled important free throws in the home-stretch to foil the former's comeback bid.

Masters Game

Erika's/Ferrera 80 — Catalla 17, Villarín 11, Fernandez 11, De Belen 9, Ja. Gatdula 8, Manabat 8, Borja 8, Jo. Gatdula 6, Lopez 2.

KB Market 74 — Pangelinan 22, Camacho 15, Umali 11, Garcia 6, Osias 6, Lansang 5, Renguul 4.

Scoring by quarters: 30-23, 43-33, 57-53, 80-74.

U18 Game

GMI Market 106 — Cruz 19, Ong 16, N-Nes 15, Alipio 15, Sablan 14, Kintaro 10, Sablan 9, Santos 6, Ataig 4.

KB Market 67 — Palino 21, Itaas 16, Aldan 14, Mejia 4, Ong 4, Ilo 4, Santos 2, Jang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-18, 51-38, 75-50, 106-67.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Erika's Catering/Ferrera Builders' Joseph Gatdula, left, dribbles his way out of the defense of CES Electronics' Dick Tibayan during an earlier masters division game in the San Antonio caging. Erika's/Ferrera won that match and also topped KB Market yesterday at the San Antonio court to improve to a 3-2 record.

Norita is MGA's October Ace

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER



Ned Norita punched his ticket to the Marianas Golf Association's yearend tournament after topping the October Ace of the Month held last Oct. 24 at the Mariana Country Club.

Norita, who also plays baseball and softball, finished the back nine with a 2-over 38 and the front with a 3-over 39 for a 77 total at Marpi's par-72 golf facility.

With an eight handicap, he ended up with a 3-under 69 for a two-stroke win over Carl Hocog's 1-under 71.

Hocog had rounds of 44 and 39 for an 83 and his 12 handicap gave him that 71, while the 16-handicapper Marco Peter came in third with an even-par 72 (47-41, 88).

Louie Tilipao, who clinched the MGA September Ace when the monthly tournament was held at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course last Oct. 3, led the closest to the pin winners.

Tilipao, who was a member of the CNMI men's golf team in this year's XV Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea, achieved it in hole No. 6, while Chandler DeLoatch,

Mart Naputi, and Calvin Yamagishi duplicated the feat in the par-3 holes No. 8, 12, and 16, respectively.

Norita is assured of a spot on MGA's yearend tomorrow as he joins early qualifiers Harry Nakamura (January), Yamagishi (February), Jess Seman (March), Naputi (April), Jenny Hegland (May), DeLoatch (June), Jay Muna (July), MGA secretary Geri Dela Cruz (August), and Tilipao (September).

MGA members continue with their hunt for the two remaining slots—November and December—with the November Ace on

Saturday, Nov. 7, at Laolao Bay's east course. Show time is at 8am and tee off starts an hour after.

J.J. Atalig is the MGA president with Joey Dela Cruz (vice president), Geri Dela Cruz (secretary), James Benavente (treasurer), Jerry Ayuyu (handicap chairman), and DeLoatch (tournament director) as the other officers.

MGA was a bit behind with their monthly tournaments after Typhoon Soudelor caused damage on Saipan—Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Kingfisher Golflinks, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, and Mariana Country Club.



Norita

Darts league to start new season on Nov. 30

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Electronic Darts Association is set to kick off the 2015-2016 Winter/Spring season, which is already delayed for almost two months due to Typhoon Soudelor, after Thanksgiving Day.

SEDA secretary Warlee Ellama and the captains of all participating teams in the Bud Light darts league held a meeting last Saturday, Nov. 7, at Doro's Lechon to plan the upcoming season that will open on Nov. 30, Monday.

Participating teams will try to rack up the most number of

wins for the eight division titles at stake—Masters, A, Ladies, Tuesday B, Chichirika, Kingfisher C, Thursday Fanihi, and Flame Tree B.

Ellama said that league rules remain as in the previous seasons and they would not implement any new regulations. The deadline for team sign up is on Nov. 23, Monday.

He added that nine bars would field in teams in the new season after three regular sponsors begged off as their respective establishments either remain closed or would no longer open following the devastation

of Soudelor.

Abyss, Route 33, and Sand Juvy are the three restaurants that are still closed and are still waiting for renovation. Smoke

Pub Bar & Grill, however, would be converted to a restaurant.

Jonny's Bar & Grill, VFW Post 3457, Blue Koi Tavern, Sands Café & Bar, Jokers Bar & Restaurant, Wild Bills Bar & Grill, 6JMS Sports Bar, Doro's Lechon, and Oleai Beach Bar & Grill will be sponsoring teams this season.

SEDA also held a double-elimination tournament on Sat-

urday where 12 players joined.

Jeff Barit topped the event after beating Pam Ybanez in the finals to go home with \$80 and a trophy.

Ybanez, who had to beat Jhun Lambon in semifinals of the losers bracket to earn the right to face Barit, won a Silver Thunder dart set and \$40 cash. He lost to Barit in the semis of the winners bracket.

Barit went undefeated beating Peter Togawa, Jhun Lambon, and Jose Orsco on his way to the finals.

Ybanez bested the likes of Rey Trasporto, Aldibert Lizama, and Chris Monsanto before losing to Barit.



Jeff Barit, fourth left, is joined by the other players in Saturday's double-elimination darts tournament at Doro's Lechon in Middle Road.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Clippers edge Grizzlies 94-92 on Redick's late scoring

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Erika's/
Ferrera, GMI
Market prevail

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee moves up in world rankings

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee gets ready to serve during a single game in the 2015 ITF Northern Marianas Junior Championships held on Saipan early this year. She is now ranked No. 747 after getting 20 ITF Junior rankings points from a tournament in Singapore last week.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee made a big leap in the ITF Junior world rankings, moving from No. 780 to No. 747 after competing in the Singapore ITF Junior Championships 2015 last week.

The 13-year-old player climbed 33 notches up to the ladder receiving 20 points from the Singapore event for advancing to the semifinals of the doubles contest and the quarterfinals in the singles play. With her achievement, Lee remains the highest-ranked junior player in the Pacific Oceania region.

"I'm happy that I improved my rankings after I got 20 points in Singapore," said Lee, who returned to Saipan yesterday morning after seeing action in the Singapore competition that ran from Nov. 2 to 7.

"I was surprised that I won against the No. 3 seed player from Indonesia in the singles," added Lee, who now has combined ranking points of 66. 25.

The Saipan Community School student, who quickly suited up for the school's volleyball game yesterday afternoon, was talking of her upset victory against Shevita Aulana of Indonesia, 6-1, 6-4, in the second round of the girls main draw.

"When I saw her play against a player from China, she was tough

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Teen Ayuyus experience N. Korea's high-level football

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U13 National Team got a taste of North Korea's high level of play in its 0-13 loss yesterday in the East Asian Football Federation Boys U13 Festival 2015 at the Leo Palace Resort Field in Guam.

North Korea, which was heavily favored in the five-nation event, lived up to its

lofty billing scoring one goal after another against the Teen Ayuyus en route to its biggest winning margin so far in the festival. The North Koreans registered five goals in the first half, three of them came in a span of three minutes (27th, 28th, and 30th) and tacked on eight more in the final period to complete its domination of the CNMI.

Despite the loss, CNMI coach Jersh Angeles saw positive points in their game against North Korea.

"The boys are very fortunate to play against North Korea and experience the high level of football this country has. Even if we gave up 13 goals, the experience and realization

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ERIC ABRAGAN

The CNMI U13 National Team's starting 11 poses for a photo before playing against North Korea yesterday in the East Asian Football Federation Boys U13 Festival 2015 at the Leo Palace Resort Field in Guam.

Winning return for Gabrielle in Cross Country

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gabrielle Race made a winning return in the third leg of the All Schools Cross Country Race held last Saturday at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Airport Field.

Race, who failed to join the first two legs of the series, led from the start to rule the girls U18 division against a host of runners from Agape Christian School.

She completed the 3.2-mile (5.1 kilometers) course in a blistering pace of 24:11, which was almost 10 minutes ahead of closest pursuer Candy Tang of ACS that submitted 33:17, while teammate Elizabeth Chen came in third with a time of 35:19.

Race's time was also better compared to first and second leg winner Yang Sheng Ai, which timed 30:36 and 28:24 in the first two races last month.

The Marianas High School multi-sport athlete shaved more than six min-



JON PEREZ
Christian Villacruz, left, runs ahead of David Roberto in the boys U15 division in last Saturday's third leg of the All Schools Cross Country race at the Airport Field.

utes off her last year's time, 30:24, where she became the overall winner in the finals held at the American Memorial Park.

Despite failing to join the first two legs, Race qualified for the Nov. 21 finals. North-

ern Marianas Athletics would announce the venue of the finals at a latter date.

Race, who would be graduating next year, wasn't informed that the first leg was moved on Oct. 24, while she failed to join the next one on Oct. 31 since she had a football game in the women's league.

Mark Lukun of ACS topped the boys U18 division with 25:08, while Mark De La Torre of MHS was second at 34:36.

Conatsu Kaga claimed her second straight girls U13 class as she crossed the finish line in 13:58, which was 27 seconds slower from her winning time of 13:31 in Leg 2 last Oct. 31.

Therize Miller, the opening leg winner (17:06), settled for second place with 17:43 beating Ruschell Villano, who completed the sweep for home school bets, by a hairline (17:44).

Whispering Palms School's Blake Mister equaled Kaga's feat in the boys' side finishing

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